The National Future Farmer

Published by the Future Farmers of America

December–January, 1983–84

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FFA Convention Coverage
One Step Ahead of the Times.

"Our second man-to-man talk was about seed corn."

"My Dad is real good about giving me the straight facts on a lot of things, and especially about seed corn.

"He's been farming for years and if there's one thing he takes seriously, it's the hybrids he plants. He's learned from experience what works best on the land we farm and over the years it's been Pioneer® brand hybrids.

"Someday I'll probably be making the decisions around here. When it comes time to talk man-to-man with my son, our second discussion will likely be about seed corn, too."

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The National
Future Farmer
Published by the Future Farmers of A

December-January, 1983-84
Volume 32 Number 2 ISSN 0027-9315

A Word With The Editor

Work is going forward on something new in vocational agricultural education. It could have as much impact on the future of vocational agriculture as any development since the Smith-Hughes Act started the program in 1917.

This new project is the formation of a National Council for Vocational and Technical Education in Agriculture. The article of incorporation and bylaws have been drafted and are ready for adoption by the profession. The purpose of the council is to provide a structure for national leadership involving various agricultural interests. While the council will bring little change in vocational agriculture during your enrollment, it should help assure a quality program in the years ahead.

Some of the stories we have for you in this issue serve as good examples of the impact of the Future Farmers of America. Individual FFA achievers like Miguel Patrick and Ron Wineinger (pages 12 and 18) show how FFA and solid farm mangement training helped them secure bright futures in production agriculture. But this impact stretches all the way to farm families in Europe, where our story on page 34 details some of the experience of FFA members living and working in a foreign land.

Meanwhile, Future Farmers made a big impact on Kansas City—and the nation—during their 56th annual national convention. Our coverage of this year's meeting begins on page 21.

But perhaps the most dramatic impact FFA has had, on a personal level, can be found in our exclusive interview with Rep. Wes Watkins. His FFA-inspired success in overcoming handicap and poverty, lifting him to the halls of the U.S. Congress.

You, too, can have an impact on those around you, in your community, in your state and nation. The FFA offers many opportunities for you to get involved. Don't let these opportunities pass by unchallenged.

Wilson Carnes

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Cover: *Cover Photo by Michael Wilson*

We caught Miguel Patrick, State Farmer and current Nebraska state officer, busy cleaning out the seed box of the family planter last summer on the family's highly-progressive farm near Grant, Nebraska. He and his father Ron make an impressive management team. The story begins on page 18.

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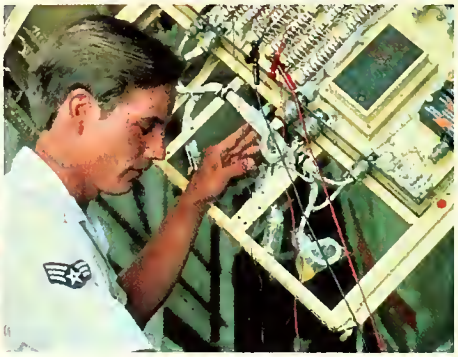

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fit the bill.
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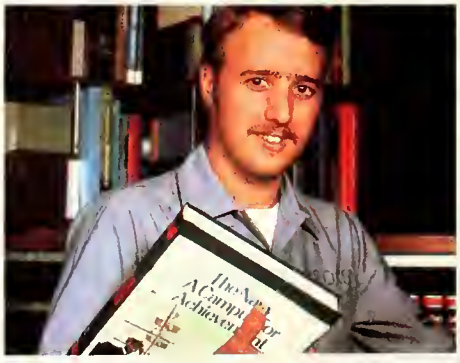
It calls for skill.



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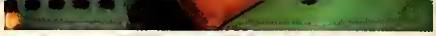
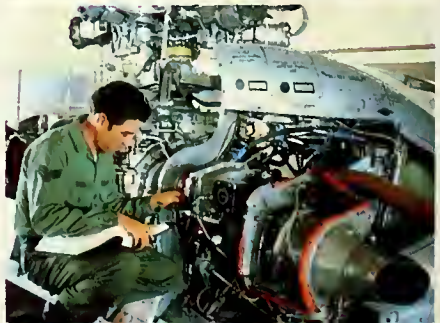


You'll move up.
You'll feel proud.
You'll stand out
above the crowd.



Serving your country is a special call. It's good for you. It's good for all.

But most of all you'll earn the respect of the people and nation you're there to protect in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines.

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But most of all, it's truly a career you can be proud of. You'll be serving your country—one of the finest things a person can do. And, you'll have the respect and admiration of your family and friends.

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The FFA News in Brief

A NATIONWIDE SEARCH continues for a person to fill the position of National FFA Advisor, open since August as a result of former National Advisor Byron Rawls' retirement. Department of Education officials announced the position to the public in October and hope to have the position filled by January 1, 1984.

PLANS ARE TENTATIVE but hopeful for final stages of remodeling at the national FFA headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, scheduled now for possible completion sometime after the beginning of the year, say FFA officials. The lower level office space was completed in late 1982. Only one floor remains to be remodeled.

THE TELEPHONE surcharge imposed by the National FFA Supply Service on incoming phone orders was instituted in March to help offset expense of operating the telephone ordering service. "We receive thousands of orders during the year by phone," says Supply Service Manager Harry Andrews. "Most calls are orders requiring a special delivery date, usually within ten days or less. A heavy burden is placed on our production facilities to meet these deadlines and also keep mail orders flowing smoothly, and the surcharge helps pay for this added operational expense." The Supply Service now offers a 2 percent discount if full payment accompanies your order.

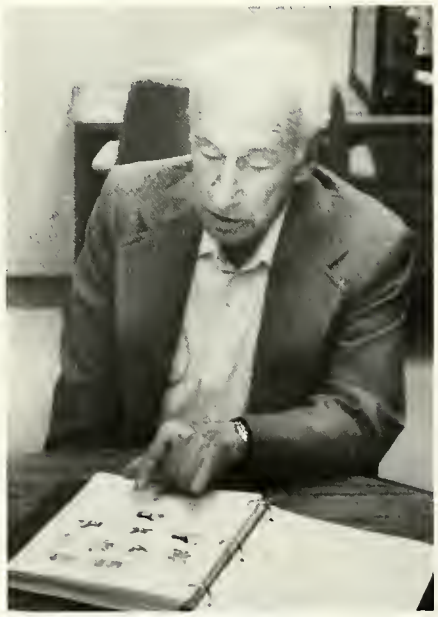
FFA Foundation Bits-n-Pieces

TWO MAJOR BEQUESTS were made recently naming the National FFA Foundation as a beneficiary. According to Steve Greene, assistant executive director in charge of individual giving, these gifts represent "the first major commitment of support from individuals for the FFA Foundation's Endowment Fund." Total planned gifts designated for the Endowment Fund are now estimated at about $1.8 million. If you know someone with a possible interest in providing long-term support to FFA through an endowment gift, contact Mr. Greene at the National FFA Foundation, P.O. Box 5117, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

WHO'S WHO Among American High School Students has announced their support of FFA by providing two $1,000 scholarships for 1984 through the National FFA Foundation. Requirements: students entering college who seek a degree in agricultural education. Interested FFA members should write for an application form at this address: FFA Scholarship Committee, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION welcomes the following new sponsors: InterNorth Foundation and State Farm Companies Foundation join as new general fund FFA supporters; Cotter & Company and Valmont Industries, Incorporated join the Foundation as special project sponsors. Chevron U.S.A. Inc. is also a new supporter by offering a Washington Conference Program Scholarship for 1984.

HOMER E. EDWARDS, a stamp collector and former member of the National FFA Board of Directors, recently donated his collection of 3,943 agricultural stamps to the National FFA Center. Mr. Edwards, who served as the first president of the Illinois FFA Association and a state FFA supervisor for West Virginia, says the collection took four years and over 2,000 hours to assemble. He's donating the collection to FFA "so members have a better understanding



Stamp collector Homer E. Edwards points out one of almost 4,000 stamps in his collection.

of the importance of agriculture in the world." The collection, now displayed in the National FFA Center's library, contains stamps with an agricultural theme from 210 different countries. Some of the stamps are worth over $30 each.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUNCH COWS FOR A LIVING TO APPRECIATE A WELL MADE BOOT.

If you want to learn about what to look for in a well made pair of boots, you can ask a man who wears them for a living. Or, you can read about it right here.

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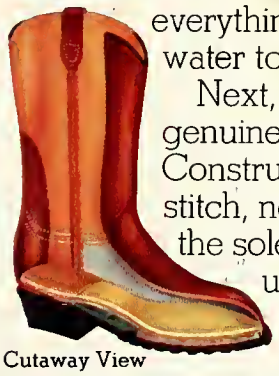
A great boot should not only look good, and feel good, but most of all, last a good long time. We make ours that way starting with the finest, full grained cowhide we can find. Oil-tanned to resist everything from water to acid.



Cutaway View

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Before we let you set foot into our boots we test and retest every one. Tests so grueling that we've been known to completely tear a pair apart just to make sure they were made right in the first place.

Boots that live up to their name.

We've been making our boots like that for more than 75 years. And in that time we've earned a reputation for making some of the toughest, best-looking, most comfortable boots in the world. That's a reputation we intend to keep. And, we just won't put our name on anything less.

Pure comfort inside.

For a good feeling fit, we've added soft, leather lined shafts, and something else a lot of other boot-makers don't add. A deep full-cushioned insole, heel to toe, to give your feet all the comfort they need to make it through the day.

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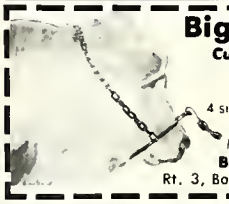

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The Mailbag

Newburg, Missouri

I am writing this letter in response to a recent article in your magazine. You stated that the National FFA Board of Directors voted to discontinue the National Milk Quality and Dairy Foods contest as well as the National Poultry Judging contest by 1985. I cannot state enough my shock when I read this. I was a participant in both contests at the state level and the benefits I gained from them was enormous. Judging teams are an integral part of vocational agriculture since they allow us to "learn by doing" and their removal will only result in stifling those whose interests venture in that field. In schools such as ours, which emphasize the value of judging teams, we can only hope that the board reviews its decision before 1985 and decides to retain both contests.

Joseph Richards

Kenton, Ohio

I am writing this because I want to shed some light on the subject of taxonomy. You see, I am a student in the FFA and my future goals are to get my state degree and then I would like to be a state officer. But I have encountered a major difficulty. I am part owner and manager of a pizza parlor and I am using this as my project.

The problem is that my advisors are certified agriculture production teachers, not sales and service which is what I need. With the taxonomy the way it is, a lot of students like me who have other projects than what their advisors are certified for, cannot apply for state degrees.

I have written to our State Advisor Dr. Earl Kantner about this and he says that you have to have what your teachers are certified for. If you have any ideas on what I should do, please let me know.

Bob Stone

We consulted our expert on taxonomy, Bob Seefeldt, FFA program specialist, who says, "In order to qualify for a state degree, your Supervised Occupational Experience program must be agricultural or agribusiness oriented, showing agriculturally-related skills. Owning and managing a pizza parlor is not considered agriculturally-related."—Ed.

Glasco, Kansas

The attention-getter and attractive Levi Strauss ad appearing in my October 1, 1983, *Kansas Farmer* deserves a word of commendation—particularly the insignia of the Future Farmers of America and showing that Levi Strauss is a proud sponsor. This is the first time I ever noted such an addition to an advertisement. I wish more would follow suit. Such manufacturers and companies like this have been just great to support FFA activities.

I was a vo-ag instructor and FFA advisor for over 30 years. I appreciate all support.

Oran Nunemaker

Ravenna, Nebraska

On behalf of the Ravenna FFA Chapter, Ravenna, Nebraska, we would like to thank *The National FUTURE FARMER* for the article "A Pasture Full Of Profits." We have had many complimentary comments about the article and wanted to pass on to you our appreciation.

Scott Standage, President
Kent Zeller, Advisor

Shelby, North Carolina

After reading your article on ag journalism in the August-September issue, I finally knew what I wanted to do.

For a long time, I couldn't decide between journalism and agriculture. (I'm involved in our school newspaper and our FFA chapter.) Now, after reading your article I've found that I can have the best of both worlds.

I really enjoy reading *The National FUTURE FARMER.* Keep up the good work.

Amy Elliott

Clay, West Virginia

In response to Julie Sullivan, (Mailbag, October-November, 1983) you say it's cruel to pen up foxes. What about your grandmother's pet bird? What about the fish in your tank? Do you think women who wear fur coats care if the fox or mink came from the wild where they kill chickens and lambs, or from a pen where they are fed and watered daily? A fox in the wild may go for a week without food.

As for it being cruel to kill them, they are killed instantly and I quote from page 33 of *The National FUTURE FARMER* (August-September, 1983) "Animals are killed instantly with a painless injection of poison."

Julie, you are right on one point about the fox — as for being a valuable asset to our country, for their fur.

Richard Adkins

Benson, North Carolina

I am writing to commend you on the beautiful cover that was chosen for the October-November issue. Your photographer Michael Wilson did a great job.

Mr. Scott Johnson is one of the agriculture teachers at South Johnston High School and he gives a great view of all the advantages of FFA.

John Taylor

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to: MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.

Three sizes fit all.

The revolutionary Suzuki Quadrunners.

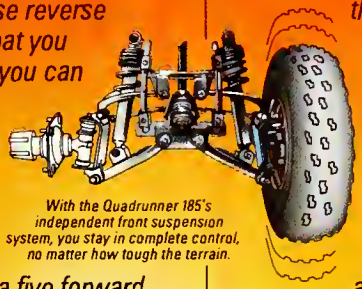
Just when the makers of those "other" all terrain vehicles thought they had the three-wheel concept down pat, Suzuki did them one better...with the revolutionary Quadrunner 125.

With its sure-footed four-wheel design, the Quadrunner 125 has uncanny stability over rocks, snow, sand, hills and hollows.

And when it comes to traversing ridges and ruts, no three-wheeler can touch it.

Not only is the Quadrunner 125 the first ATV of its kind with the stability of four corded floatation tires, it's also the first with an easy-to-use reverse gear. So no matter what you may get yourself into, you can always back out with the tug of a lever.

And because the power of the torquey 125cc four-stroke engine is channeled through a five forward speed transmission with Power Low gear and an automatic clutch, there are few places a Quadrunner fears to tread.



With the Quadrunner 185's independent front suspension system, you stay in complete control, no matter how tough the terrain.

And now Suzuki's four-wheel theory has evolved even further. The same engineers that built the Quadrunner 125 began working on a completely new kind of Quadrunner.

The result of their labors? The Quadrunner 185. A four-wheel ATV that starts by doing everything our 125 does (including going backwards), then adds a few twists of its own. With nearly 200 cubic centimeters of stump-pulling four-stroke torque. Impressive top end power. And a double A-frame front suspension system that not only works wonders for off-road comfort and handling, but greatly enhances the machine's overall cornering capabilities. So, in addition to giving you exceptional power, the Quadrunner 185 has the kind of sure-footed stability that results in a sensation of total control.

And because grown-ups aren't the only ones who love playing in the dirt, Suzuki's engineers devised the fun-to-ride Quadrunner 50. It's literally a knee-high replica of the bigger Suzuki Quadrunners, built expressly for young beginning riders. Thanks to its stable, four-footed stance, it makes child's play out of learning how to ride (as does the no-shift one-speed transmission and automatic clutch).

For first-time riders, there's a unique engine cut-off switch connected to a long, leash-like tether, so mom or dad can keep junior in tow.

Optional front and rear racks for the Quadrunner 125 and 185 help turn work into play.

And like the other Suzuki Quadrunners, there's simply nothing else like it on the face of the Earth.

So, while some companies are still busily trying to come up with their first four-wheeler, Suzuki's already done it three times in a row. Which proves our point nicely: To create a revolution is one thing. But to do it three times over is a Sensation. The Sensation of Suzuki.

SUZUKI Quadrunner

Quadrunner 185. The only ATV with four wheels, five forward speeds, reverse gear and double A-frame front suspension system.

Quadrunner 125. The ATV that started the four-wheel revolution, and the first ATV of its kind with an easy-to-use reverse gear.

Quadrunner 50. The first ATV to introduce first-time riders to four-wheeling.

SUZUKI The Sensation of Suzuki.

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1912

8862

254R

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In the Tradition of the American Cowboy

Trends in Agriculture

Looking Ahead

WHO'S BETTER? When it comes to efficiency, younger farmers may have the latest equipment and more technical training, but middle-aged farmers make up for that in experience and resources. An ag economist's research at Cornell University shows middle-aged farmers between 35 and 44 years old are more efficient than farmers younger than 25 and those older than 55. The report says middle-aged farmers were most efficient in crop production and use of machinery, and young farmers most effective when it came to hired labor and return on energy expenses.

FARM REAL ESTATE values have slumped for the second year in a row, says a report in USDA's *Farmline*. The latest decline of 6 percent for the year ending April, 1983, follows a 1 percent decline in 1982. The average acre of U.S. farmland is now worth about $744, compared with $789 in spring of 1982 and $795 in early 1981.

AN ALL-TIME LOW: American families now spend an average of less than 12 cents of each $1 of their disposable or after-tax personal income, says a report from ag extension specialists at North Carolina State University. The specialists say that in most countries, the proportion of disposable income required for food expenses is much higher than in the United States.

PIK AND DROUGHT took a big bite out of the U.S. corn harvest this year, according to USDA's *Farm Paper Letter*. The nation's five leading corn producing states, which account for 64 percent of total production, vividly demonstrate the phenomena. Iowa, top producer last year, will see a 53 percent lower harvest from 1982. Illinois' production is forecast down 60 percent, Indiana down 58 percent, Nebraska is down 36 percent and Minnesota's total is seen down 39 percent from last year's crop. Insiders at USDA estimate the total U.S. corn crop to be 49 percent lower than last year's record.

THAT LONG-TERM agreement between the United States and USSR, in spite of international conflicts, began October 1, 1983, with the Soviets to purchase nine million tons of wheat and corn in approximately equal quantities each year over the next five years. Those figures are significantly higher than the old agreement: six million tons per year with option to buy an additional two million tons without consent. Many ag leaders credit Secretary of Agriculture John Block for standing firm to the agreement in the wake of the Korean jet tragedy.

A COMBINE THAT STEERS ITSELF electronically while automatically controlling harvesting speed and header height is currently being field tested, says a report from Massey Ferguson. Equipped with several microcomputers, a "combine information center" and a sophisticated electronics system, the experimental combine has been averaging 25 percent better productivity over standard machines and in some cases as much as 50 percent higher yields. Below, an interior view of mobile data collection lab that accompanies the combine to its field test sites. The lab monitors data from 30 sensors on the combine.

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Photos By Author

Above, Matt Wineinger seems to have this calf under control as he prepares the animal for eartagging. Father Earl, left, doubles as Matt's vo-ag instructor.

A Cattleman's Dream For The Future

Accomplishing a short-range goal helped this FFA member move one step closer to a life-long ambition in the cattle business.

By Michael Wilson

He is a tall, lanky young man with dark, liquid eyes and a quick, easy smile that matches perfectly with the friendly character commonly found on America's farms. Reserved and respectful, this FFA member might seem a lot like any other future farmer at first glance.

But the easy-going nature is only a cover for the firm determination behind this goal-setter named Matt Wineinger, of the Marion, Kansas, FFA Chapter. Have a talk with 18-year-old Matt and chances are good words like "plans" and "future" come up often—because for Matt, planning the future is the very key to success. Matt believes the future doesn't just happen—you *make* it happen.

And he's been proving it ever since donning the blue jacket four short years ago.

These days Matt's future plans revolve around fulfilling one lofty dream: to build a career in the cattle business by owning and operating his own registered Angus cattle operation. "I suppose it's been a dream all along," says Matt, but the eyes give a sparkle of self-confidence. Matt's engineered a long-range plan to turn his family's modest home farm into his life-long goal: a livestock production business complete with sale barn and office. The plan is so well thought out it might make the most successful architect envious.

Matt's plan for a cattle career led to national recognition this year as central regional winner of the FFA's Home and/or Farmstead Improvement award, sponsored by The Upjohn Company. Several building and improvement projects around the neat and tidy Wineinger home outside of Marion led to the award.

But as Matt quickly admits, "I didn't even know I could apply for the award until last year. All the improvement activities were aimed at furthering my beef project." It all started, strange as it may seem, with a hedgerow.

Matt decided the hedge, overgrown and hazardous to motorists pulling out of the Wineinger driveway, just had to go. Not owning a chainsaw, Matt used an axe to chop through the pesky bush, and a shovel permanently ended its root system. He then constructed a split-rail fence along the roadway. "It doesn't look like it was that difficult now that it's finished, but believe me, that was a lot of work," Matt grins. "Hopefully this fence will someday be a trademark of the Wineinger farm."

Since then, small buildings on the homestead have been painted, corral fences have been built, shrubs and grass planted and plans laid for a circular drive. A new home replaced the one destroyed by a fire five years ago, and Matt hopes to turn the house into office space someday after he's built "a multi-purpose display barn for cattle produc-

tion sales and other year-round uses," he says. He's even picked a spot in a nearby pasture to build his own house once the cattle barn is completed.

Matt's interest in cattle began with an orphan calf given to him by a friendly cattleman. Although his grandfather owned a farm, Matt's experience had been limited. But his father Earl teaches vocational agriculture classes at Marion, and vo-ag class went a long way to make up the difference. "Dad's been a big help," says Matt.

Matt has experimented with other, more exotic cattle breeds. As a result, the current herd has taken on the colors of a multi-flavor ice cream parlor. Still, he hopes to eventually manage a "pure" registered Angus herd. "I think the registered industry has a lot more to offer," he says. "Whenever it comes time to sell the offspring, registered cattle seem to sell much better."

Matt runs 40 head of "mostly Angus" cattle plus eight replacement heifers due to calve this May. He cites ease of calving, and uniformity as his favorite reasons for sticking with the breed. "Besides," he grins, "Angus don't have horns to mess with."

Not one to let new ideas go to waste, Matt keeps a constant eye on trends and methods used by today's cattle managers. He uses a heat synchronization program, forcing all cows to come into heat at once, making breeding a simple task. Artificial insemination and embryo transfer are also ideas he's picked up on. "I'd eventually like to get into embryo transfer because it's the way to go in the beef industry. If you have one good cow you can get 30 calves out of her in one year," he says.

The Wineinger herd has reaped the rewards of this alert, ambitious manager. Like many youths his age, Matt takes his best stock to the local county fair and some area Angus shows. "Matt strictly shows his own stuff," says Mr. Wineinger. Adds Matt: "If I happen to win, it probably means a lot more to me than it would someone who might buy their show cattle."

Unlike many youths his age, Matt literally grew up in the FFA. Before coming to Marion as an ag teacher, Mr. Wineinger worked at the national FFA headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, when Matt and older brother Ron were little. The memories are dim, says Matt; he was in first grade at the time. But his father's dedication to the organization made its mark on both brothers. Ron won the national extemporaneous public speaking contest at the 1980 national convention and later served as Kansas state FFA president.

Matt's accomplishments have been just as impressive. On top of the recent proficiency award, he's also participated in several state and national judging and public speaking contests. He earned the national 4-H beef award in 1981 and hopes to apply for the FFA's beef production proficiency award next year.

The brothers have shared many goals in FFA, including Matt's most recent, a shot at state officer. But he's not living in his brother's shadow. "I saw things that Ron really enjoyed in FFA," he says, "but I have goals that I want to meet also."

Matt is currently studying agriculture at Kansas State University. "I feel you just about have to get a degree in animal science in order to even make it in the beef industry today," he comments. He's planned to use his degree as "something to fall back on" if his first goal doesn't pan out. But judging from Matt's enthusiasm for the beef business and his carefully-laid plans for the future, failure doesn't look likely. "There are so many young cattlemen today who get in trouble their first five years in the business," says Matt. "If you plan your finances, work slowly toward a goal and make a long-range plan, you stand a better chance of making it."

That's sound advice from one cattleman whose dreams and plans for the future have already harvested achievements today. ●●●

Bottom, a glimpse of the multi-colored Wineinger herd, including older brother Ron's Jersey cows. Top, Matt adjusts a post in the fence he built. "Hopefully this fence will someday be a trademark of the Wineinger farm," he says.

One Man's Tribute

Editor's note: A few months ago managing editor Michael Wilson accompanied national officer Wendell Jeffreys to the Capitol Hill office of Rep. Wes Watkins, D-Okla., in Washington, D.C. It is here Congressman Watkins, along with fellow federal lawmakers, must make critical decisions affecting not only his district in southeastern Oklahoma, but a nation as well. Upon returning Wilson had this report to make:

"We arrived late at the Congressman's office—knowing his busy schedule, I feared we would miss Rep. Watkins altogether. To our delight, he welcomed us into his office and made us feel at ease immediately. I noticed an FFA plaque on one wall. With shirtsleeves rolled to the elbow, Congressman Watkins looked like the working man's public servant—far from the image we sometimes have of our political representatives in Congress.

"Congressman Watkins made time for our visit; in fact, when the call came to rush to the House floor and vote on a critical bill, he took Wendell and me with him. Afterwards, Rep. Watkins hosted both of us to a cup of coffee there in the capitol, where he revealed a most intriguing, dynamic tribute to vocational agriculture and FFA.

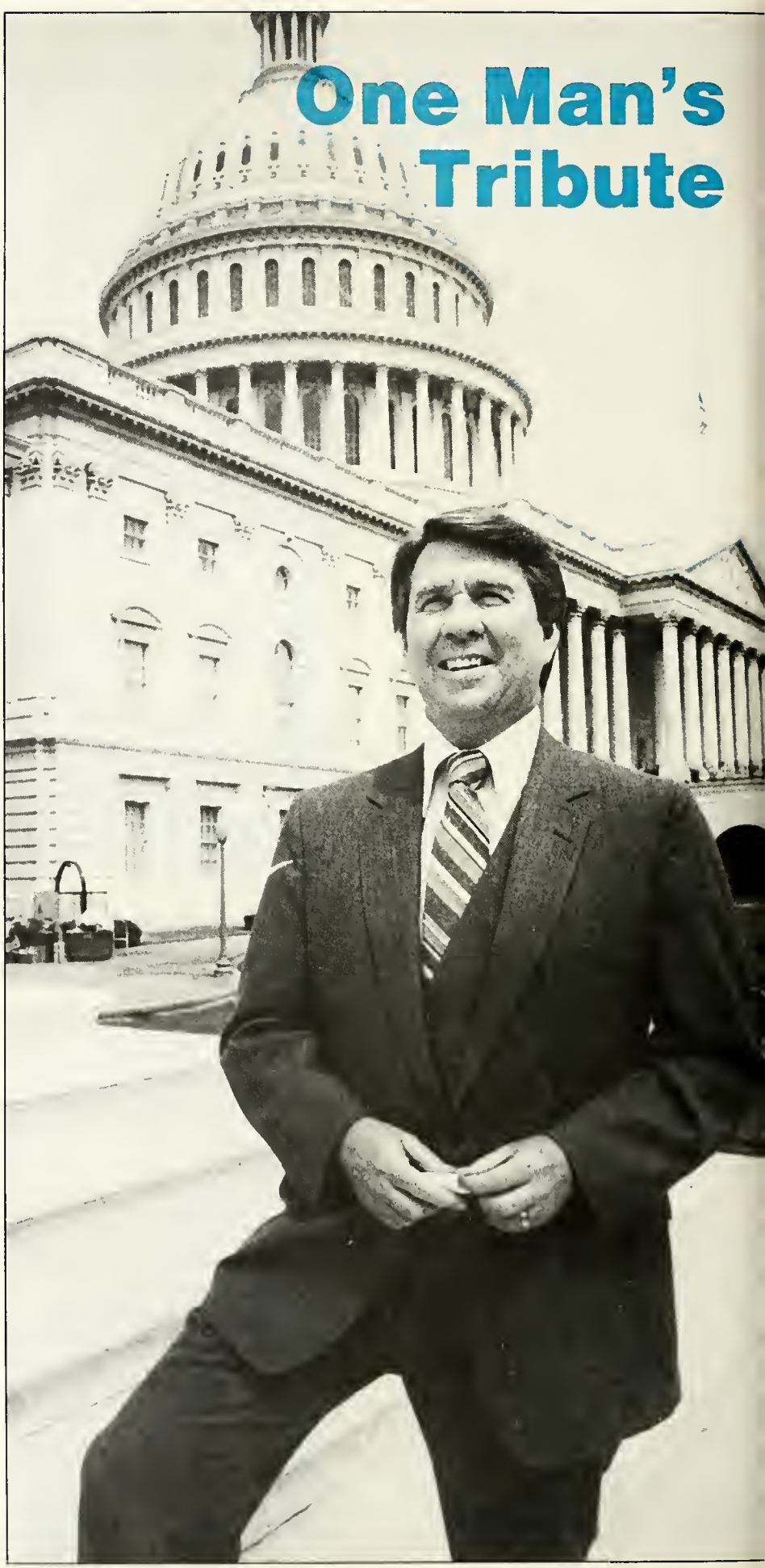
"I knew the congressman had more pressing matters of national importance. But he never once glanced at the door. He couldn't talk enough about FFA and what his FFA experience had done for him. We ended the interview hours after our arrival. I think he would have let us visit all day if we had asked to."

THAT report is a telling testimony of one leader's love affair with vocational agriculture and the Future Farmers of America. Wes Watkins grew up in rural, depressed Bennington, Oklahoma, where his determination was strong enough to overcome many obstacles—including a speech impediment and poverty. As a restless, ambitious teenager, Watkins searched for something he could excel at—and found it through what was then a new high school activity called FFA. By practicing his speaking ability in vo-ag class each day, he not only overcame his handicap but soon became a skilled public speaker. He swiftly rose to become state FFA president and later was elected chairman of several student organizations at Oklahoma State University, where he graduated in agricultural education.

Rep. Watkins now splits his time between Washington, D.C. and his home in Ada, Oklahoma. He is serving his seventh year as a U.S. Representative.

FUTURE FARMER: Can you tell us about your early experiences in FFA?

WATKINS: When I was still in grade school my father had a small farm operation, a little country general store



and a truck that hauled hay and grain. One day he said he was going to help move a teacher to Bennington to start a new program called vocational agriculture. It was a new program—a lot of enthusiasm for it. Three or four years later I joined the FFA and enrolled in vocational agriculture.

I think all of us need to find a place where we can excel. I guess what I was confronted with was that search of trying to find something that I could excel at. I felt inadequate because of a particular handicap, a speech impediment. And as a young Greenhand my vo-ag teacher had the wisdom to take some of us as freshmen to the state FFA convention in Stillwater.

I became motivated—I marveled and admired the way our state FFA president conducted that state FFA convention with such confidence. It really inspired me. When I got back on the school bus I mentioned to my vo-ag teacher that I was impressed and that was something I would like to do. My vo-ag teacher worked with me because he realized I needed extra help. He had me read current events in the Future Farmer magazine, or I would cut an article out of anything pertaining to agriculture or FFA and I would get on my feet and talk about it in vo-ag class. I probably needed it more and he realized if I had any ambition that people were going to have to understand me.

With that constant urging, that constant help, I was able to overcome at least enough of that speech impediment to communicate. Five years later 16,000 FFA members from Oklahoma elected me their state president.

The FFA has completely changed my life. If I hadn't had the FFA maybe I could count on something else. But I found out I could excel at something.

"The FFA has completely changed my life. If I hadn't had the FFA maybe I could count on something else. But I found out I could excel at something."

I've always said I couldn't afford the best animals; but I learned how to *judge* the best animals. It doesn't take any money to become an outstanding public speaker; but it takes determination, it takes initiative and sometimes someone willing to help you. If you are willing to knock, the door will be opened.

FUTURE FARMER: What was it like growing up in Oklahoma?

WATKINS: Sometimes things weren't easy. We had droughts; I had to leave my peanuts in the ground because I couldn't harvest them. I had cattle that manged out with brucellosis disease when I was a senior in high school. I didn't make American Farmer because when I paid all my notes and mortgages, with the cattle disease and drought, I had $88 to go off to college with.

I got a job at college, and when I was elected state FFA president I literally was living above a chicken house, going to school and working 40 hours a week. I don't know if I could do it again when I look back at it. Long days; four hours sleep a night. I got up at four o'clock, gathered eggs and mixed feed on a poultry farm at OSU.

FUTURE FARMER: Weren't you also elected student government president for the University? Is that when politics got in your blood?

WATKINS: As an agricultural education major, I was out doing my student teaching. By my junior and senior year I changed jobs but continued a 40-hour week. I still managed to do my practice teaching at a nearby high school.

When the students called and asked that I run for president of the student body, they said 'We'll put up the filing fee of 50 cents.' and I said 'All right, let's go.' They filed and we got after it. The campaign theme spread like wildfire all over campus, and the students responded.

I literally did not become interested in politics until that time; I didn't have the faintest idea about politics. When I was state president I was involved in FFA because of leadership activities. But after getting involved and having people ask me to run for something, that's when it struck me that what they were talking about was politics.

Many young people feel like they have to jump into politics immediately. But I think young people need to establish themselves *for* something, so citizens can realize what they stand for. I worked as a building contractor. I waited 14 years before I served two years in the state senate. I admit it was about that time people started talking to me about running for congress.

FUTURE FARMER: You obviously thrive on challenges.

WATKINS: Life itself is a challenge and it depends on how we want to encounter those challenges. Are those challenges opportunities? I consider the problems we encounter opportunities. Things don't just happen. *They are caused to happen.* We can make things happen if we face those challenges with the right attitude and the right motivation and with the right goals.

FUTURE FARMER: What is the most difficult challenge young people—specifically FFA members—are going to face in the next ten years?

WATKINS: Selfishness is an ingrained characteristic that all of us have to overcome, thinking about only our individual self. I think the great challenge comes in asking how can we make this a better life for *all* of us? If I'm able to make this a better life for all people, I'm making it a better way of life for myself and my family also.

The second challenge we must be aware of is the need to make a commitment. I think the achievers, the people who are going to be successful, are those willing to go an extra step, an extra mile to assist, to help, and to do things even if it may not be in the job description.

I'd like to challenge young people to be creative, use their ingenuity, to be reflective thinkers. Many people see and read something but never reflect on how that might be altered or how that might be improved in order to help people. We all have a great contribution to make if we just seek it.

One thing I think many of us fail to reflect on is what I learned from FFA, specifically, from judging contests. In judging contests, you have to give a set of reasons: why you place one animal above another animal. I learned from judging contests one of the greatest human relations traits that exists, and that is looking for good points and expressing the good points before ever looking for the negative.

Wouldn't it be great in life with one another as fellow human beings, as fellow FFA members, if we would look for the good points in one another before we criticize?

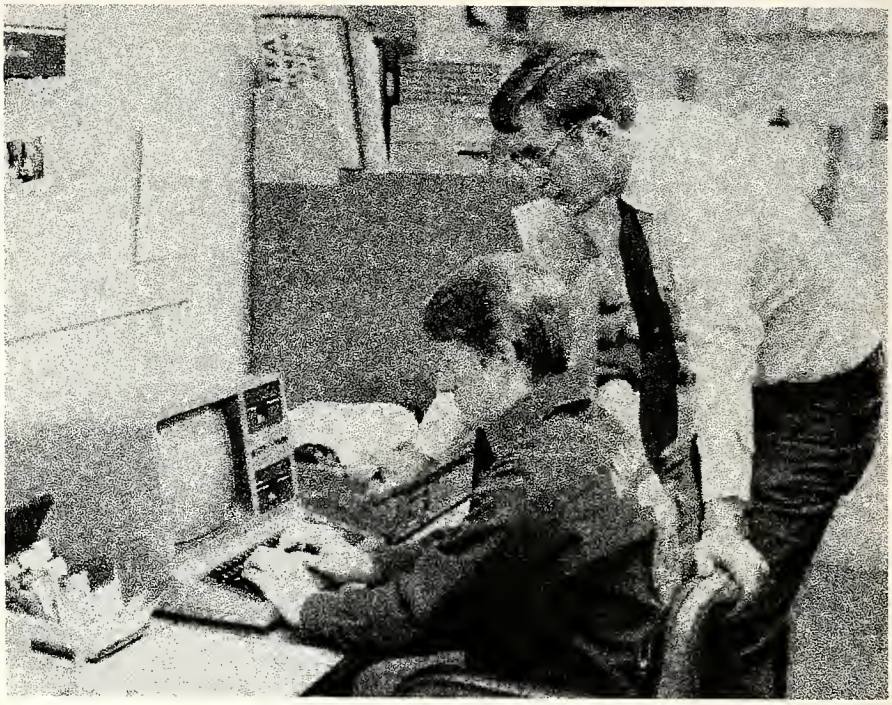
FUTURE FARMER: Why are you such an avid supporter of vocational agriculture?

WATKINS: If there was ever a person that could really say he was a product of FFA, I am that person. There are two things that make goose bumps go up and down my back: one is the flag, Old Glory flying over this nation's capital when I walk by it at night; the other is when I see a Future Farmer of America member with his FFA jacket on. I get an emotional feeling, because the FFA lifted me out of the depths of poverty and personal problems to the halls of Congress. You can't lightly dismiss such an influence on your life.

"If there was ever a person who could really say he was a product of FFA, I am that person. The FFA lifted me out of the depths of poverty and personal problems to the halls of Congress. You can't lightly dismiss such an influence on your life."

When I was running for state FFA president, I said in my nominating speech I wanted to be elected because I wanted to repay the FFA for what it had done for me. I'm still trying to repay the FFA for what it's done for me and thousands and thousands of other young men and women. •••

High Tech Learning



Fictitious farms which exist only in the blinking lights of a computer terminal can help future farmers gain needed farm management skills.

By Carole Hedden

FARMERS of the 1980s are a different breed than farmers of past generations. They still face long-standing problems of flood, drought, hail, soil erosion and harsh winters. Today, though, it's also high interest rates, costly equipment and changing tax laws that can create challenges.

Modern farming has become more than just plowing fields, planting crops and bringing in the harvest. Marketing, futures trading, forward contracting and long-term storage are factors to consider for young farmers looking to the land for their future.

These are the factors that make agricultural education a vital part of modern farming. As an FFA member, you learn about soils, crops and livestock in vo-ag class. But you *also* learn about decision-making based on sound economic principles.

These principles are the basis for a new farm management program which allows students to apply what they learn about farm management to their own farm—a totally simulated farm created by a computer. Dr. James Goode, assistant professor of agriculture at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, has developed the computer program now being used in the classroom.

The farm management class gives students information about credit and investing, deciding whether to borrow money and how interest rates affect a farm operation. The computer program allows students to apply the information on their "farm."

Dr. Goode, who keeps in contact with Clarksville area FFA chapters, says vo-ag students indicated an interest in such a program—one that allows them to apply the shadowy ideas of finance to real-life farming situations. So the agriculture professor created a farm that exists only in the blinking lights of a computer. Students become owners of 220-acre farms. The task of making decisions about using that acreage, managing crops, livestock and finances, becomes the students' primary concern in the farm management course.

GOODE: "We're emphasizing the decision-making process using computer terminals as a teaching tool."

Time is measured in half-months on each fictitious farm, with the student-farmer making decisions twice a month. Students report to the Austin Peay computer terminals to make decisions based on what has been learned in the classroom. A student has 24 opportunities to make decisions each "year" for ten years. However, Dr. Goode says most students complete their ten-year farm management program in a few weeks by making decisions for a year or two in a single visit to the terminal.

The idea is to survive, not go bankrupt, Dr. Goode says. "Frequently a student will choose to go through the computer program repeatedly, applying new information learned during class or their previous experience to improve management.

"We're not teaching students to use a computer to operate a farm," Dr. Goode stresses. "We're emphasizing the decision-making process using computer terminals as *a teaching tool.*"

Dr. Goode says the program allows students to make mistakes, without the repercussions they would have to face once they own or operate a farm. The importance of planning and adjusting to changing conditions becomes a reality.

The professor believes the program is the most extensive farm simulation written. Not only do students fictitiously plant crops, determine when to plant and harvest, but also determine the best time to sell stored crops. In addition, natural factors such as late frosts and too much or too little rain are applied through the computer. Combined, these varying factors — natural and man-made — assume real-life importance for students who previously had only a textbook to depict farm situations.

At the end of the management period, the computer calculates a score for the student's management based on cash-on-hand, unpaid debts and value of livestock, land and crops. Students are penalized for poor rotation of crops, soil erosion or other problems.

Dr. Goode's students report the computerized teaching tool allows them to see why managing property and money properly are essential to farming. "The intangible idea of making economically sound decisions about farming becomes very real for students," he says. "Yet, the students have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes without real-life losses." ●●●

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This father-son team use progressive-minded management to keep

One Step Ahead Of The Times

Success in farming *used* to depend on a sturdy pitchfork and an intimate knowledge of how the thing works.

And of course, success still depends on hard work. But farming success can no longer be measured by just the muscle in a farmer's arm. If higher profit is the goal—and it almost always is—today's farmer uses his head as much, or more, than his hands to reach them. And that means keeping ahead of the times when it comes to new farming techniques and advancements.

Miguel Patrick, 18-year-old FFA'er from Grant, Nebraska, typifies that spirit of progressive farming. Miguel and his dad Ron operate a 1700-acre irrigated and dryland crop farm. They incorporate many farm management techniques which have either haven't reached other farmers, or have been passed over simply because many don't want to "risk" a new method or piece of equipment.

But the Patricks believe in taking a chance here and there when it comes to farming. They say they'll try anything once if there's a chance it might squeeze a bigger dollar out of today's ever-changing farm management techniques. "Chances are opportunities," says Miguel. "Many farmers don't like to accept change. Of course, some new methods don't always work out, but it's a learning experience.

"If you're afraid to take chances, you may miss those opportunities," concludes Miguel. "What's life for if you don't take chances?" Ron adds: "If you don't keep up with the times, pretty soon the times will catch up with you. I said from the start if I couldn't farm differently, I wasn't going to farm. That's my nature."

That open-minded attitude has been good to the Patrick father-son duo. Here in southwest Nebraska, the sky is big and land is fertile, ideal for the Patrick's wheat, soybean and corn operation. But Ron and Miguel know these crops won't just plant and grow themselves; it also takes sharp management—and an interest in better solutions to tackle both old and new problems.

Miguel says his biggest challenge is keeping the irrigation "systems" running smoothly. The Patrick's use ten center-pivot circular irrigation systems to provide water to crops. These huge towers of mechanized pipe are mighty important to the welfare of Nebraska corn and soybeans—especially during times like this summer's blistery drought.

Keeping an eye on all ten of these water monsters can be difficult, especially at night. But a business friend developed a system that can monitor and activate each center pivot with minimum hand labor by using an everyday telephone system. "We even had it set up so that if a system shut off it would call your home phone," says Miguel. "It's a patented system, that so far hasn't caught on. But it saves a lot of mileage in monitoring systems."

Miguel, a Nebraska State Farmer and currently state officer, began FFA as a freshman with 12 acres of irrigated corn. By his senior year he had a full circle of corn and a half circle of kidney beans, about 250 acres. He says he tried growing kidney beans as an alternative to soybeans, "but the market for kidneys has dropped severely in the last two years." And markets are something both farmers pay particular attention to.

"I've learned quite a bit from dad about marketing and forward-selling at the elevator," says Miguel. "Before each season we set the goals for prices in marketing as a team. Marketing is probably just as important as growing that crop."

Last year the farm held back three dormant circles in the U.S. government's PIK program. Another was planted in wheat, one in kidney beans; and five circles were planted in corn.

The Patricks plant their own corn using a "sidewinder" setup for spring tillage. "It looks like a big roto-tiller," says Miguel. They hook a tilther bar behind the sidewinder that enables them to attach a maximum ridge planter behind.

"We don't do anything in the field beforehand," says Miguel. "We just let the cattle graze it in the winter and when it's time to plant, go right in." The Patricks use a tank for preplant, starter fertilizer and chemicals.

"I think we use about a third of the fuel it would normally take," he estimates. "And the extra trash on the surface holds moisture and provides a mulch. To top it off, our yields are above average for this area—for any type of tillage."

Another unique aspect of the Patrick farm is harvesting equipment: there is none. All harvesting is custom hired. Ron Patrick, who worked for the extension service in his home state of Iowa before moving to the farm explains: "I saw too many bankruptcy sales due to farmers overspending on machinery when I worked for the extension service. During my first ten years of farming, I was very proud that we've been able to fit our total machinery into a 50 square-foot area."

The farm buildings, set away from the house, consist mostly of grain storage facilities. A "Vacu-vator" is used to suck grain out of storage onto trucks. Miguel explains that, although the grain moving system causes more damage to kernels it provides fast loading with a minimum of labor. That's helpful when there's only one hand to help load and the truck must be somewhere by nightfall.

Open minded

Miguel's open-minded attitude has most likely been influenced by the wide range of fascinating experiences his dad has under his belt. Ron Patrick grew up on a farm in Iowa where he was a state FFA officer. He earned a masters degree in agricultural journalism. "He always told himself he didn't want to farm because they didn't have irrigation in Iowa," jokes Miguel. "He met Mom in college, who is originally from this area. He came here and saw these center pivots and that changed his whole idea of farming. It intrigued him."

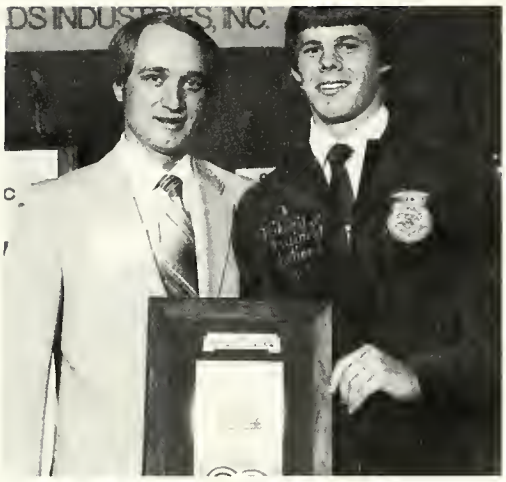
Mr. Patrick went to Pakistan on an exchange program before working in extension. He and his wife later went to South America as Peace Corps volunteers, where Miguel was born. "I haven't met anybody with my name yet in Nebraska," grins Miguel.

Mr. Patrick's off-farm activities keep him hopping. Besides a part-time job as a seed dealer, he also serves as president of the Nebraska Corn Check-off Board. "For every bushel of corn sold, a tenth of a cent is taken and used for promotion," he says. From his work there he was appointed treasurer of the Meat Export Federation. Miguel adds, "He's gone a lot, so I take care of the farm when he's gone."

It's doubtful the younger Patrick will ever match his father's adventures or activities, but he clearly has a good start if he plans to return to the farm. Miguel is now attending Kearney State College studying business administration. "I'm kind of interested in business, but if I change my mind later I could bring that knowledge back to the farm and apply it. An education in business would apply easily to the farm." Just as the open-minded, forward-thinking attitude of this father-son team has been applied over and over, resulting in better farm management by staying one step ahead of the times. •••

PATRICK: "Some new methods don't always work out, but it's a learning experience. If you're afraid to take chances, you may miss those opportunities. What's life for if you don't take chances?"

Opposite page, Miguel Patrick says one of his biggest challenges is keeping the farm's irrigation systems working smoothly. Inset left, Miguel adjusts the grain system's "Vacu-vator;" at right, a cloud of grain dust displays the sheer force of grain as it's dumped into a semi for hauling.



Above, national winner Mike Pitzer and Advisor Mark Streit, from Franklin Grove, Illinois, proudly display their trophy.

Above, top four FFA members pose for news photographers immediately after the announcement is made. From left to right are Mike Pitzer, of Illinois; Earl Horning, Ohio; Jay Garber, Pennsylvania; and Darrin Windous, Nevada.

BOAC Conference Sets High Standards

FFA's "Achievement In Volunteerism" winner is announced at the first-ever national BOAC conference on community development.

PICK 50 outstanding young men and women—one from every state in the union. Fly them to Washington, D.C.

Line up state department officials, Senators, Congressmen and business executives to meet with them. Hold sessions to expand their knowledge of community development.

Feed them well. And treat them to opening night at a theater.

Then announce the first Achievement in Volunteerism winner and you've got the makings of a chance-of-a-lifetime experience.

That's just what happened September 10-14 when the FFA held its first Building Our American Communities (BOAC) conference on community development at the Capitol Hill Hyatt Regency in Washington.

Mike Pitzer, of Franklin Grove, Illinois, was named the first national Achievement in Volunteerism winner at a luncheon before more than 250 Washington officials, FFA members and their advisors, Senators and Congressmen and private agency executives.

Named second was Earl Horning of Suffield, Ohio. Jay Garber, of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, was named third and Darin Windous of Owyhee, Nevada, was named fourth.

Winners shared $2,650 in awards for their chapters' 1983-84 BOAC projects and received plaques from R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc., sponsors of both the conference and the BOAC program.

Winning People and Programs

The 50 individual winners represented both small towns and large; some were still in high school, while some had moved on to college or careers. What all winners had in common, however, were successful BOAC projects that had made a positive impact in their local community.

"They have made their communities better places," said G. Dee Smith, executive vice president of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company at the awards luncheon. "I know—thanks to them—that the future of agriculture and the future of America is in good hands."

Over the course of five days in Washington, state winners and their advisors met several VIPs, including Frank Naylor, undersecretary of Agriculture for Small Community and Rural Development; Dr. Robert Worthington, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Education; Willard A. "Bill" Phillips, director, USDA Office of Rural Development; Merril L. Petoskey, deputy administrator, USDA Farmers Home Administration; and Ray Lett, assistant to the secretary, Department of Agriculture.

The FFA delegation met with Senator Robert Dole, R.-Kansas, during a visit to the U.S. Senate. At the awards luncheon, Senator David Durenberger, R.-Minnesota, spoke about his volunteer-run election campaign in one of the costliest Senate races in history.

"Not only was I the first Republican in 30 years to get re-elected in Minnesota, but between myself and my opponent, we spent $12 million in a state of only four million people," he said. "He put $7.1 million of his own money into his campaign. I had to rely on volunteers."

"One highlight of the conference was the internship program arranged by Rep. Kika de la Garza, D-Texas, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Students spent three hours working as interns in their own Congressman's office. Some attended committee meetings, hearings and one floor vote.

Students and their advisors also got a sneak preview of the new edition of "Community Development — FFA Style."

"We went over how to identify the most important projects, collect more useful information, get more community involvement, use publicity to get more community support and how to evaluate your efforts once all is done," said Dr. Jim Albracht, on leave from Kansas State University to direct the conference. Dr. Albracht was one of several agricultural and educational leaders to lead workshops.

Dr. Robert Worthington, who served as a judge to select national winners from the ten finalists, said, "The many fine programs that were reviewed speak to the tradition of excellence in education and community involvement that the FFA has always stood for."

"You have set a high standard to follow," BOAC program specialist Ted Amick said at the conference's close.

And more than 100 tired, but well-fed, people smiled. •••

A FLAME OF BLUE AND GOLD

It was the final session of the 56th National FFA Convention held two weeks ago in Kansas City, Missouri, and the air was filled with electricity. Suddenly three spotlights cut through the darkness; they searched the crowd, finally coming to rest on one solitary blue-jacketed young lady who stood with gavel in hand at the podium.

At that moment 23,000 enthusiastic FFA members, friends and advisors rose from their chairs to give National FFA President Jan Eberly and her 1982-83 national officer team a rousing salute which lifted the rafters of Municipal Auditorium. FFA's First Lady stood at center stage, waiting for the applause to subside, with a sparkle in her eye and a glow of FFA pride that could be felt by everyone in attendance. She waited, yes, but the applause rolled on and on; a standing ovation which exemplified the love and admiration FFA'ers felt for their leader, her fellow national officers, and the Future Farmers of America organization.

It was just one of many special moments that stirred the hearts and minds of thousands who attended this year's star-studded FFA celebration. Led by Jan and officers Marty Coates, Bryan Stamps, Cara Doyle, Bruce Kettler and Wendell Jeffreys, FFA members helped themselves to a three-day jubilee which saw winners named, contests held and important issues discussed. It was a chance for FFA members to strut their stuff — and a chance to show why this annual event has become a symbol of all that is excellent in agricultural youth.

From national television shows to an indoor ticker-tape parade, this convention held something for everyone. Those who missed it may have seen a portion over morning coffee — appearing in a borrowed FFA jacket, NBC weatherman Willard Scott broadcasted his daily weather report on "The TODAY Show" live from convention stage. And when Foundation Chairman Bob Book announced that the National FFA Foundation's Sponsors Advisory Board had raised $1.565 million for FFA, he was greeted with a standing ovation — as thousands and thousands of "three-dollar" bills bearing FFA emblems floated down from above.

Appearances by motivational speakers, political leaders and celebrity personalities kept convention-goers entertained and inspired throughout the convention. When the action wasn't on stage it was above it, where audio-visuals and films gave the convention an added dimension. FFA's new audio-visual theme show, "Keeping America On The Grow," sponsored by The Wrangler Brand, set the pace for convention action. Also premiered was a 60-second public service announcement to encourage support for vocational agriculture, set for national television and featuring actor Eddie Albert. Convention-goers saw a dramatic film portraying the life of a former National FFA Officer and Congressman Jerry Litton, narrated by Walter Cronkite; plus a message from Secretary of Agriculture John Block.

But convention delegates knew there would be more to the meeting than recognizing achievements. After heated debate, a motion failed that would have required FFA members to be currently enrolled in vocational agriculture class and conduct an SOE program. Convention delegates passed a motion that supported re-establishing updated versions of the poultry and milk quality and dairy foods contests. When the action wasn't inside Municipal Auditorium it was at national judging contests, or FFA Day at the Royal where Charley Pride belted out his country-western hits, or the record-breaking National Agricultural Career Show, or the National FFA Alumni Association's popular leadership workshops, or . . .

Well, you get the point. Suffice to say FFA members showed their true colors during those three short days in November. And, as Jan Eberly told FFA members in her retiring address during that final session, "your determination burns . . . like a flame of blue and gold." Those who attended knew just what she meant. For those who could not attend, we offer here just a glimpse of those moments which made this convention so special . . .

Jan Eberly

Marty Coates

Wendell Jeffreys

Bryan Stamps

Cara Doyle

Bruce Kettler

Stars Over America

James Tugend, left, a 21-year-old dairy farmer from Jeromesville, Ohio, and Clint Albin, a 21-year-old greenhouse operator from Bush, Louisiana, were named Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America during the annual Stars Over America Pageant. Jim and Clint were selected from over 700 American Farmer Degree winners as the most outstanding FFA members in the country in the fields of production agriculture and agribusiness.

Career Show: A Chan

The 18th annual National Agricultural Career Show broke another record this year by providing FFA members with 183 exhibits by major agribusinesses, military, academic and state FFA organizations. The show, which gave FFA members a chance to talk with leaders about different ag-related careers, also provided an opportunity to purchase official FFA souvenirs and supplies from the National FFA Supply Service booth.

Willard Gives Weather Report: Sunny Skies For FFA

NBC weatherman Willard Scott broadcast his daily weather report on "The TODAY Show" live from convention stage, with a borrowed FFA jacket and several FFA members as his backdrop. Short presentations by national officers Cara Doyle and Jan Eberly, plus a performance by the National FFA Chorus, were included in the broadcast over national television. "This organization is good," Mr. Scott later said in a lively, witty speech to the FFA audience. "There's apple pie, grandmothers and FFA."

FFA Foundation: Another Record

Bob Book

Bob Book, agribusiness leader and chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, received a standing ovation — plus an "indoor shower" of FFA three-dollar bills — when he announced total FFA support figures for 1983: a record "$1.565 million, plus an additional $1.6 million in commitments through the Foundation's deferred giving program. Dr. Hilmer Jones, a vice president of Merck and Co., Inc., was installed as 1984 Chairman.

FFA Public Speakers Take Top Honors

Tony Edmond, right, of Dublin, Georgia, took top honors as this year's best extemporaneous public speaker with a speech on "The role of exports in the structure of American agricultural markets." Rob Thurmond, of Bedford, Virginia, captured first place in the national prepared public speaking contest with a speech titled, "Is Our Future Eroding?" Both speakers took home $300 and a plaque for their winning efforts.

to See The Future

Ziglar: See You At The Top

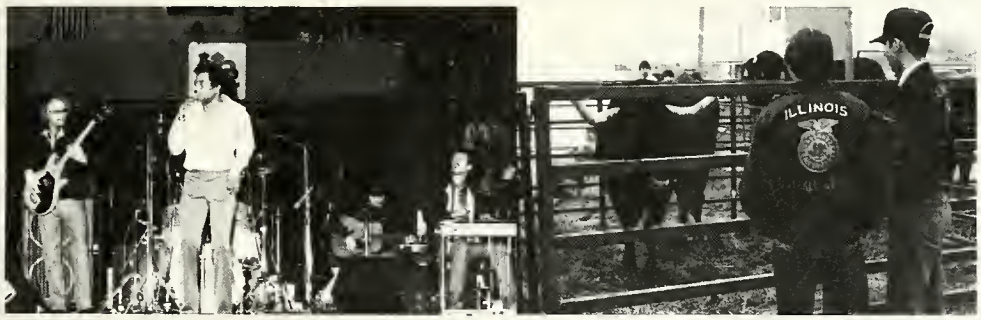
Zig Ziglar, well-known speaker and author, told FFA members that the goals of FFA are the goals of America. "FFA gives the most beautiful and priceless ingredient in America today — hope — to people who need hope," he said. "The thing I sense here above anything else is that you've got your hearts into what you're doing. If you've got your heart into it, I believe the possibilities are incredible."

National Contests Challenging

Team effort was the key to nine national award-winning FFA chapters, as they competed in contests ranging from livestock judging to farm business management. More than 1,500 FFA members competed for both individual and top team recognition. (For winners, see next page.)

Moawad Motivates

Robert Moawad, president of the United Learning Institute, kept FFA members spellbound by his fast-paced, dynamic message on motivation, often citing examples of people who overcame obstacles to become successful in life.



Charley Pride Performs at "FFA Day At The Royal"

Award-winning country-western singer Charley Pride made a brief but spectacular appearance on stage at the national convention before performing at nearby Kemper Arena in Kansas City for "FFA Day At The Royal," a special segment of the American Royal Livestock Show. FFA members had a chance to see some of the best livestock in the nation at this show.

Keep That Beat

Each year gifted FFA members from the National FFA Band, Chorus and talent shows are able to display their musical skills in several performances throughout the convention. Under the direction of Stan Kingma, Roger Heath and Don Erickson, the groups provided outstanding entertainment, delighting the FFA audience.

Secretary Bell: A Vo-Ag Supporter

Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell praised the FFA organization for its role in developing competent, productive citizens. "Vocational agricultural education is extra-critical to our future," Secretary Bell said. According to Secretary Bell, recent studies show the quality of education in America is a major concern and that extra emphasis has been put on correcting that concern. "How to get students motivated is one of the big problems we face," he said. "FFA is the premier model of how to do that."

1983-84 National Officers

Your new national officers are left to right: Rhonda Scheulen, Bill Caraway, Chuck Duggar, Melody Lawson, Ron Wineinger and Carol Irvine.

Mixed feelings of joy and disappointment were the order of the day, as thirty enthusiastic candidates from across the country vied for a chance to serve as national officers this year. Six young men and women saw those dreams come true. They will travel worldwide this year to meet FFA members and supporters.

Ron Wineinger, 20, from Marion, Kansas, was elected National FFA President for 1984. Ron is a member of the Marion FFA Chapter, life member of the Marion FFA Alumni Affiliate, and a member of the Kansas State University Collegiate Chapter, where he is studying ag education and ag economics.

"I think it's important that we get to know each other. Jelling the team together will be a primary emphasis at the start," says Ron, referring to his fellow national officers. "The next thing is to look into any more leadership services which we can provide to members."

Ron served as president of the Kansas FFA Association and was high individual in six state contests, including public speaking. He placed first in the 1980 national FFA extemporaneous public speaking contest. He developed his own herd of registered and grade Jersey cows as his SOE program, and acquired 160 acres of grassland in partnership with his brother, Matt (see page 12.)

Bill Caraway, 19, of Clovis, New Mexico, was elected national secretary for the coming year. Bill says he had "a feeling of amazement and astonishment" when he heard he had been elected. "It's something you work for a number of years. You sit there and meditate back on your years in FFA and it's scary to think it may be coming to a close. I remember when I got up on the stage I had to ask everybody else, 'Did they really call my name?'"

Bill was involved in both production agriculture and agribusiness for his SOE program. He raised beef, poultry, sheep and swine, and also worked as farm director for KCLV radio and KMCC television in Clovis, where he is a member of the Clovis FFA Chapter. Bill has participated in numerous judging and speaking contests throughout his FFA career, taking top honors at the 1981 national FFA extemporaneous public speaking contest.

Rhonda Scheulen, 20, of Loose Creek, Missouri, has been elected national vice president of the central region. Rhonda is a member of the Fatima FFA Chapter. "I think the Greenhands are definitely the foundation of our organization," says Rhonda. "I think my goal, and the goal of the organization, is to serve every member."

Rhonda earned the American Farmer Degree with an SOE program raising swine, cattle and poultry. She won the Missouri prepared public speaking contest and placed second in the region in 1981. She served as Missouri FFA president also. She currently studies agricultural journalism at the University of Missouri.

Melody Lawson, 20, of Peoria, Arizona, was elected western region vice president. She is a member of the Cactus FFA Chapter. "A real burden I've felt in my heart is that we have so many schools in the urban society which could also benefit from FFA. We already have the quality in most rural schools. The urban schools have just as much talent. If we could get them involved also it would be excellent."

Melody served a Arizona state reporter and won top honors in the state public speaking contest in 1981. She received a silver proficiency award for her crop production SOE program. She also raised beef while in high school. She currently studies pre-law at Glendale Community College and plans to attend the University of Arizona.

Carol Irvine, 19, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, was named eastern region vice president. Before serving as state president of the Maryland Association, Carol served as president of the Seneca Valley FFA Chapter. She earned the title of State Star Farmer and won both the state prepared and extemporaneous public speaking contests.

"I've been looking forward to this for eight years, since I was in junior high school," says Carol. "When I was in seventh grade, our junior high FFA chapter was fortunate enough to have a national officer in to speak. That was when I set the goal to become a national officer."

Carol studies agricultural economics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She plans a career in agricultural law or politics, and still maintains her SOE program of 200 registered Cheviot sheep.

Chuck Duggar, 20, of Marianna, Florida, was elected as southern region vice president. Chuck's SOE program began with two hives of bees and increased to 50 hives over a five-year period. During his senior year of high school he assisted a local veterinarian and later was employed by the Florida Farm Bureau as a Safety Education Specialist.

"I'm looking forward to a good experience," says Chuck. "I'm especially looking forward to meeting the people throughout the year." Chuck served as Florida FFA state president and participated in the national ag mechanics contest in 1979. He has also participated in poultry judging, forestry, farm management, parliamentary procedure and public speaking activities. He is an agricultural engineering student at Chipola Junior College. •••

FFA's National Winners

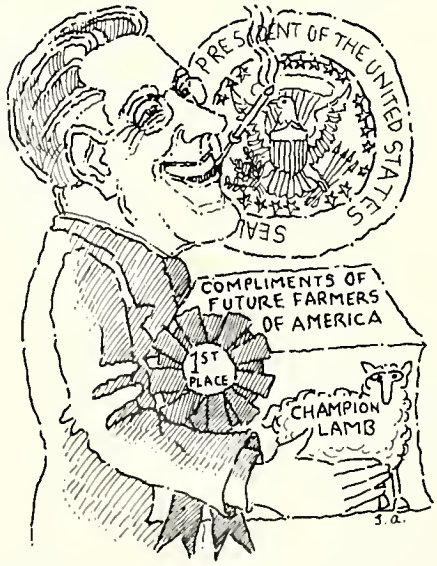
Name of Award	Central Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	Sponsor
Star American Farmer	T. J. Martin Lamar, Nebraska	**James B. Tugend** Jeromesville, Ohio	Charles Hillsman Watkinsville, Georgia	Robert Chitwood Sulphur, Oklahoma	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Star Agribusinessman	Jett Heidrick Danville, Illinois	Glenn T. Wenger Myerstown, Pennsylvania	**Clint Albin** Bush, Louisiana	Lyndon Taylor Thomas, Oklahoma	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Prepared Public Speaking	Kent Burrow Altamont, Illinois	**Rod Thurmond** Bedford, Virginia	Jon Reddick Maynard, Arkansas	Kevin Ochsner Fort Collins, Colorado	FMC Foundation
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Doug Coyle Mackville, Kentucky	Lisa Ray Littleton, Virginia	**Tony Edmond** Dublin, Georgia	Cindy Blair Noble, Oklahoma	American Farm Bureau Federation
Agricultural Proficiency					
Agricultural Electrification	**Brian F. Jones** Sheridan, Indiana	Tony Smith Milford Center, Ohio	David Moss Readyville, Tennessee	Bryan Tomlinson Shawnee, Oklahoma	National Food and Energy Council, Inc.; Winpower Corporation; Klein Tools
Agricultural Mechanics	**Timothy Price** Bloomington, Wisconsin	Kirk Palmer Earlville, New York	Michael Swilley Cantonment, Florida	John Sousa Madera, California	International Harvester Company
Agricultural Processing	Berton Strayer Hudson, Iowa	H. Lee McCartney Honoverton, Ohio	Steve Harris Martin, Tennessee	**Lyndell Fishback** Spring, Texas	Cargill Foundation
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	**Scott Robinson** Eskridge, Kansas	Tracy Sloan Bridgeton, New Jersey	Rita Pate Chipley, Florida	Cody McEndaffer New Raymer, Colorado	Allis-Chalmers Corporation
Beef Production	Scott Vathauer Barnes, Kansas	**Leroy Billman** Ostrander, Ohio	John Cloar Dyersburg, Tennessee	Kerald Searcey Gould, Oklahoma	NASCO International, Inc.; Sperry New Holland
Crop Production	**Michael Arends** Willmar, Minnesota	Joan Shawhan S. Charleston, Ohio	James Turnell Rogersville, Tennessee	Brent Stoker Burley, Idaho	Massey-Ferguson
Dairy Production	**Ken Kern** Owatonna, Minnesota	James Oster Canastota, New York	Billy Moore Cleveland, Tennessee	Steve Nunley Marlow, Oklahoma	AVCO New Idea, DeLaval Agricultural Division; American Breeders Service
Diversified Livestock Production	Dan Fenrich Evansville, Wisconsin	Keith Allen May Bergton, Virginia	Dawn Anderson Starr, South Carolina	**George Etchemendy** Lost Springs, Wyoming	A.O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc.; Wayne Feeds Div. of Continental Grain Co.
Fish and Wildlife Management	Darin Smithson Farina, Illinois	Craig Dunaway Weems, Virginia	**Owen McCall** Mayo, Florida	Chris Staudt Lamesa, Texas	Philip Morris Incorporated
Floriculture	**Miriam May** Oneida, Wisconsin	Ronald Adkins Raynham, Massachusetts	Stephanie Taylor Cleveland, Tennessee	Jane Martinez Katy, Texas	Lerio Corp., Nursery Supplies, Inc.; Paul Ecke Poinsetta Ranch, Foundation General Fund
Forest Management	**Rick Meyer** Kendallville, Indiana	Donald Flood Dillwyn, Virginia	Daniel Bond Perkinston, Mississippi	Jim Williams Elma, Washington	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Fruit and/or Vegetable Production	Bradley Wood Reelsville, Indiana	Robert Grantham Goldsboro, North Carolina	Kevin Trail Morrison, Tennessee	**Dean McKay** St. Paul, Oregon	Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Inc.
Home and/or Farmstead Improvement	**Matt Wineinger** Marion, Kansas	William Allen, III Jefferson, Maryland	Barry Watts Murfreesboro, Tennessee	Dan Schmunk Eaton, Colorado	Upjohn; TUCO, Asgrow and Cobb, Agricultural Division of The Upjohn Company
Horse Proficiency	**Annique Renee Cohen** Madison, Wisconsin	Mark Snider Liberty, North Carolina	Debra Jones Abbeville, South Carolina	Lonnie Scott Halleck, Nevada	The American Quarter Horse Association
Nursery Operations	Lynn Granby Verona, Illinois	Rudiger Baumgaertel Albany, Ohio	Mell Price Northport, Alabama	**Melissa Sherman** Fallbrook, California	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Outdoor Recreation	Jay Tescher Beach, North Dakota	Aaron Lehman Newport, North Carolina	**Michael Alexander** Woodbury, Tennessee	Joe Cronk Cody, Wyoming	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Placement in Agricultural Production	David Gafke Belleville, Wisconsin	**Daryl Balmer** Lebanon, Pennsylvania	Ken Irwin Cantonment, Florida	Lyle Fuller Gervais, Oregon	Hesston Corp.; The Shell Companies Foundation Inc.
Poultry Production	Scott Foss Maddock, North Dakota	Carlton Grady Albertson, North Carolina	**Keith McCaghren** Danville, Alabama	Jon Thompson Milburn, Oklahoma	Kentucky Fried Chicken of Oklahoma; Red Brand Fence/Keystone Steel & Wire Co.; Foundation General Fund
Sheep Production	Bryan Hoffman Danvers, Illinois	Irvin Armentrout Harrisonburg, Virginia	David Hays Fayetteville, Arkansas	**Robert Arndt** Buffalo, Wyoming	Carnation Company-Milling Div.; American Sheep Producers Council, Inc./ Sheep Industry Development Program Inc.
Soil and Water Management	Kevin Wetzel Waterville, Minnesota	**Brian Thomas** Kenton, Ohio	Britt Parker Perkinston, Mississippi	Owen Lyles Lakewood, New Mexico	Ford Motor Company Fund
Swine Production	Mike Westrich Burtrum, Minnesota	Paula Watson Seven Springs, NC	**Thomas Rimmer** Cedar Grove, Tennessee	Paul Schwartz San Angelo, Texas	Pfizer, Inc.
Turf and Landscape Management	Randall Hahn St. Louis, Michigan	Gordon Massengill Four Oaks, NC	**Brian Fulkman** Jacksonville, Florida	Arnold Deaguero Santa Fe, New Mexico	O. M. Scott & Sons
National BOAC Citation	**Franklin Center FFA** Franklin Grove, Illinois	Elizabethtown FFA Elizabethtown, PA	Bradley FFA Cleveland, Tennessee	Elma FFA Elma, Washington	R.J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.

Contest	Winning Team	High Individual	Sponsor
Agricultural Mechanics	**Minnesota**—Larry Oudekirk, Chris Gerber, Dennis Vogt; Adams	**Larry Oudekirk** Adams, Minnesota	Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
Dairy Cattle	**Tennessee**—Glenn Calfee, Kelvin Bishop, Alvin Bishop; Cleveland	**Jeff Sa** Tulare, California	Asociated Milk Producers, Inc.
Farm Business Management	**Iowa**—Mike Hein, Dave Norby, Scott Pringnitz; Osage	**Troy Nelson** Gilmer, Texas	Deere & Co.
Floriculture	**Oregon**—Cindi Smith, David Uphoff, Laura Evitt; Portland	**Stephanie O'Hara** Spokane, Washington	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Livestock	**Illinois**—Brett Bayston, Don Rich, Keith Wilkin; Chatsworth	**Mike Craven** Stet, Missouri	Ralston Purina Company
Meats	**California**—Kathleen Loya, Jeff Toll, Ryan Champlin; Hanford	**Damon Sandlin** Williston, Florida	Farmland Foods, Inc.; Geo. A. Hormel & Co.; Jones Dairy Farm, Oscar Mayer & Co.
Milk Quality and Dairy Foods	**California**—Gina Giacomazzi, Tracy Flores, Robin Frye; Hanford	**Joseph Richardson** Licking, Missouri	Mid-America Dairymen, Inc; Patz Company
Nursery/Landscape	**Georgia**—Allen Darden, Lisa Neidert, John Hatfield; Atlanta	**Jane Praska** Cresco, Iowa	American Association of Nurserymen; Wholesale Nursery Growers of America; Amfac Garden Products, Inc; Kubota Tractor Corporation
Poultry	**Arkansas**—Patty Stith, Marian Roles, Wendy Fultz; Springdale	**Wendy Fultz** Springdale, Arkansas	Hubbard Farms; Victor F. Weaver, Inc.

Bright Moments In FFA Hist

Strap on your thinking caps, FFA trivia buffs; here are some famous and not-so-famous moments from earlier days a

The Star Farmer of America award has always been touted as one of the highlights of each National FFA Convention, and the first presentation in 1928 was no exception. Since the FFA had chosen Kansas City, Missouri, for their first convention, the newspaper *Kansas City Star* offered to give a $1,000 prize to the student named Star Farmer of America, and the award was to be celebrated on a national radio broadcast hookup. What most people *don't* know is that ten minutes before the broadcast, the student receiving the award could not be found. Panic swept over the crowd of adult supervisors backstage. The boy and his FFA advisor were finally discovered sitting ten rows up in the stands, and were rushed down to the stage just as the gates opened and the announcement was made.



In 1934, FFA delegates to the national convention voted to buy the champion lamb at the American Royal livestock show, have it completely dressed and sent to the White House as a gift to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The package included a blue ribbon and a note: "Compliments of the Future Farmers of America."

The National FUTURE FARMER magazine wasn't the first magazine to serve youth in agriculture. The first issue of *Farm Youth* magazine came off the press in March of 1935, edited by 19-year-old boy wonder Homer Anderson. In 1932 Homer served as Utah FFA state president and was a delegate to the national convention. For *Farm Youth's* first issue Anderson set the type, got advertising, bought some fiction stories, had his sister illustrate it, printed it on a hand press and sent 5,000 copies to all FFA chapters in the country. *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine was first published 17 years later in 1952.

It wasn't until 1969 that women were allowed to join FFA membership on a national level, and in 1982, the first woman national president was elected. But what most people don't know is that the issue was debated long before 1969. The 1933 National FFA Convention will probably best be remembered for the hotly contested question of allowing girls into FFA. Although against the first national constitution, the Massachusetts Association had permitted girls to become members of FFA on the grounds women were also permitted to be in vo-ag classes. But a majority of delegates disagreed and the delegate body voted to suspend Massachusetts if it did not follow the rules. By next year, however, the ruling was softened and specified that female membership should be limited to local and state basis.

ory...

lational FFA Convention

How were the official FFA colors national blue and corn gold chosen? A Missouri ag teacher, C. L. "Dutch" Angerer, reports first National FFA Advisor C. L. Lane requested vo-ag leaders to submit color combinations to the national advisor. Mr. Angerer had planned a trip to Kansas City. At his wife's suggestion, he stopped at Emery-Bird-Thayer, one of the finest department stores in the Midwest at the time. Mr. Angerer described the new FFA organization to one of the sales ladies and asked for suggestions. Next day, she had clipped and pinned many combinations of colors together and tucked them neatly into a small box for Mr. Angerer's return trip to Jefferson City, Missouri. Mr. Angerer's wife suggested the gold and blue ribbons—and the proposal was eventually approved by the national FFA organization.

A twin surprise for a Star Farmer award was one highlight of the 1939 national convention. When it came time to select the 1939 Star Farmer from the southern region, judges were confronted with *identical twins,* whose records were also nearly identical. Both were ahead of other candidates in the region, so Albert and Arthur Lacy of Hondo, Texas, became the only FFA members ever to share a regional Star Farmer Award.

Sportsmanship and high conduct are often demonstrated during the National FFA Convention. Such was the case of Jack Dunn, a candidate for American Farmer from Hawaii at the 1933 national convention. Jack's farming program did not meet the rigid qualifications for the degree and his name was passed over during approval of degree winners. Some delegates thought this was unfair since farming conditions in Hawaii were probably difficult. A hot debate followed and a parliamentary tangle developed. In a dramatic moment, Dunn, an official delegate, took the floor and asked that no exception be made in his case, stating, "Hold up the standard," which caused an outburst of cheers from fellow delegates. One delegate then suggested Dunn be awarded an Honorary American Farmer degree, but that proposal was also against FFA constitution rules. So another delegate offered a "Special" Honorary American Farmer degree be awarded, and the motion passed. To this day, Jack Dunn is the only person ever credited with such a degree.

Did You Know . . .

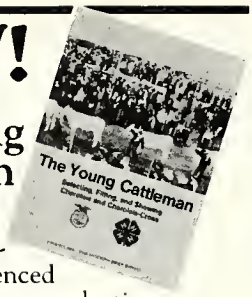
The National FFA Band was first organized in 1947 and quickly earned the nickname "mail order band" because participants were selected from every state using applications sent in the mail to the band director.

How did we get the name "Future Farmers of America?" In 1926 a vocational agriculture teacher named Henry C. Groceclose from Virginia came up with the name "Future Farmers of Virginia" a name inspired by the common term in Virginia, "First Families of Virginia." The feeling was that this would boost the self-confidence of the upstart farm boy organization. It naturally followed that the name for the new national organization be "Future Farmers of America." The state of Virginia is often credited with originating the Future Farmer "movement."

In 1931 the first FFA "uniform" was adopted and a contract awarded to the Pool Manufacturing Company of Sherman, Texas, for the exclusive right to make them. The uniform consisted of dark blue shirt, blue or white trousers, blue cap with yellow tie, and sold for $5.75 complete. The official corduroy jacket came along in 1933 but was not commonly seen as the symbolic mark of FFA members until several years later.

NEW!

The Young Cattleman



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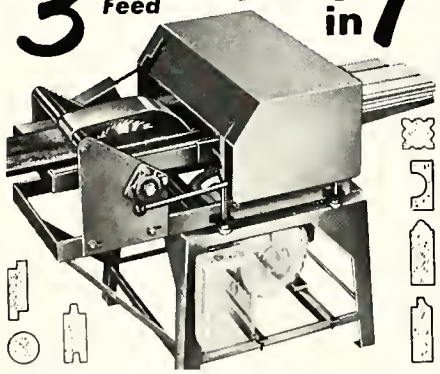

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LEASING: One More Option

By Garry Barnes

THAT ol' faithful tractor you and your dad have been using for years just doesn't cut the mustard anymore. So you've decided you'll need new machinery by next spring.

But deciding how to finance that management move can be a difficult decision. Funds are still scarce; costs are still increasing; and although it sounds like a broken record, interest rates are still high.

Those are challenges enough for an established farmer. For those just starting, the challenge may seem insurmountable.

Today's farm operator must evaluate each available method of financing. This article focuses on one of those alternatives: leasing.

But before you can consider one option, it's best to get an idea how other alternatives may apply to your operation. These include a *cash purchase*—that's obvious—simply reach into your pocket and come up with the money for that new tractor or combine; or getting a *capital loan*, through a local bank or other lender. A capital loan with conventional terms will normally require a 20 to 30 percent down payment.

Leasing, on the other hand, has received increasing attention in the last few years as a specialized instrument of finance. In simple terms, a lease is a *non-cancellable contract for the unrestricted use of personal property for a specific period of time in return for periodic payments.* In other words, you can use someone else's machinery, pay that person for the privilege of using it, and give the machinery back at the end of a certain time period.

The "lessee"—in this case, you—generally has four alternatives to consider at the end of the lease:

1. purchase the equipment
2. renew the lease
3. upgrade the equipment and start a new lease
4. return the equipment to the lessor.

Advantages and disadvantages

A typical lease offers the equivalent of 100 percent financing, since it generally does not require a down payment or deposit. This is one advantage over a loan since this does not "tie up" your capital in a down payment. But bear in mind you do not take ownership of the equipment—you are merely "renting" it for a certain time, then giving it back.

Another advantage to leasing is that payments can be arranged to correspond to the lessee's cash flow. For example, if earnings generated from using the leased equipment occur during harvest season, you can usually arrange to make lease payments at that time also.

Possibly the most important advantage to leasing is that it may be the only option to consider if you simply do not have adequate capital to buy equipment or take out a loan. This is especially true for farm operations that are totally restricted by inflexible annual budgets.

Another advantage of leasing versus ownership is that ownership of equipment often makes replacement difficult, due to obsolescence. In other words, the equipment's actual life may be much shorter than its depreciable life. As a result, funds provided from accumulated depreciation for replacement will not be enough to replace the machine.

But here's how it looks from a lessee's standpoint. If the equipment is functioning well, you may choose to purchase it. If it is *not* functioning well, however, you have the option to return the equipment and make other arrangements.

It would be impossible to describe every aspect of leasing here. The possible benefits of tax timing, for example, would take up pages, and is one element the potential lessee should look into thoroughly. In any case, if you are considering leasing as a way to fund your farming operation, discuss the decision with professionals at your local bank or lending institution. You will need to decide what equipment is needed, the terms of warranties, guarantees, delivery, installation and services, a selling price, and terms of the lease itself.

Choosing a lessor

One of your most important decisions will be who to lease from. Again, you may choose to get financial advice on this decision. But your decision can come into sharper focus by answering the following questions about prospective lessors: Is the lessor experienced in the equipment leasing business? Will the lessor be readily available for consultation throughout the life of the lease? Is the lessor adequately capitalized to back up a firm commitment? Is the lessor familiar with the special legal problems related to leasing? Can the lessor correctly analyze any and all income tax considerations?

Once you've considered these questions you will be better equipped to go ahead with your leasing plans. Knowledge is the key: the more you study and understand your options, the better your decision will be when it comes to financing your farming operation. •••

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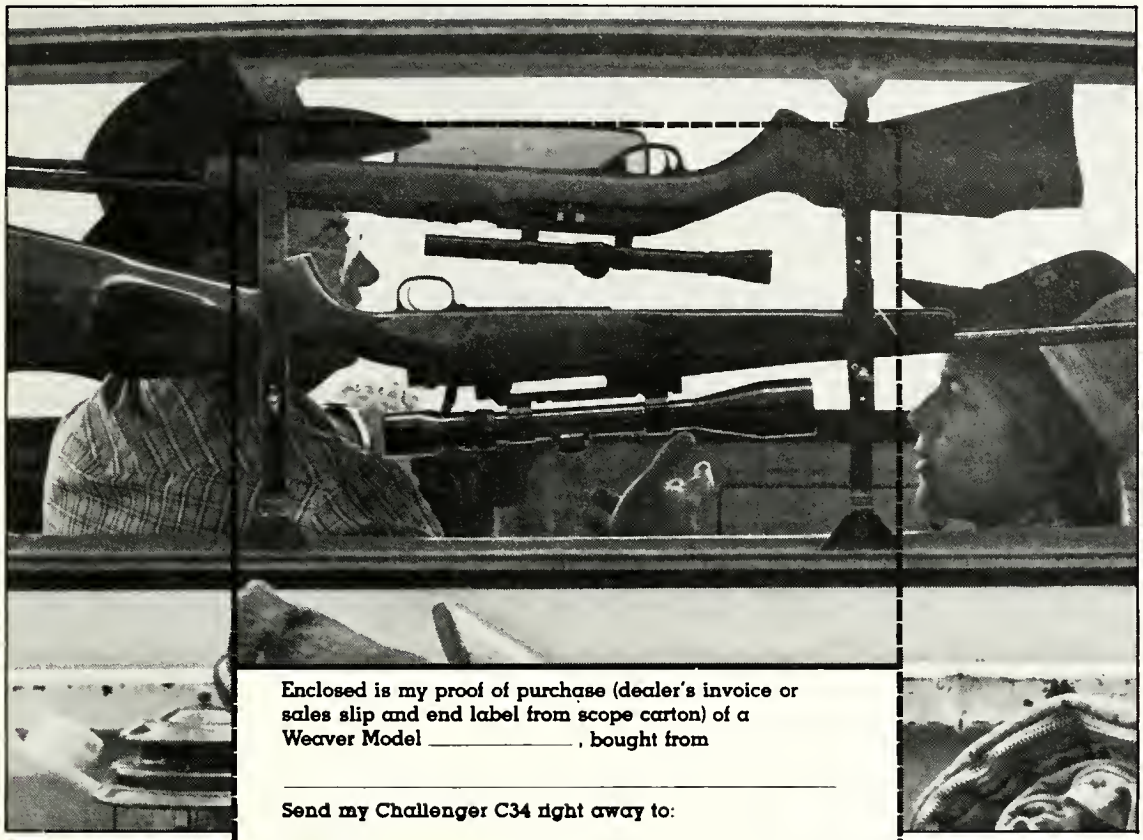

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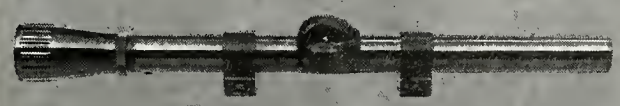

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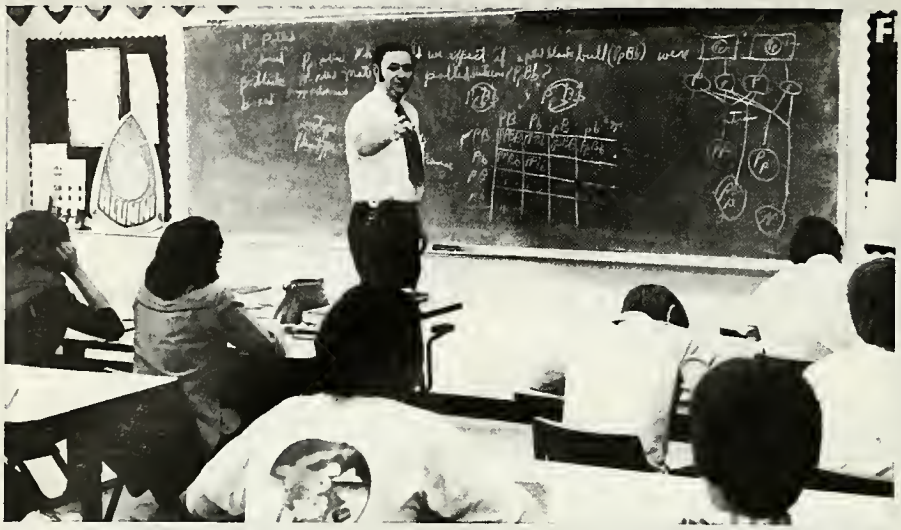

Teaching Vocational Agriculture

By Shirley Jones

Ag Teachers. From the outside it looks like a job with long hours, hard work and a never-ending stream of young people who filter through the system.

That perception isn't too far off, yet does not come close to describing what it's *really* like to get up every morning, put on an FFA advisor cap and go to work for a day that may last well into the night.

Rob Hovis can remember when his own ag teacher talked with him about studying agricultural education in college. "I flatly rejected the idea," he remembers, "because I thought I wouldn't have the patience to be a good teacher." Several years and experiences later, Rob is into his third year of teaching at Convoy, Ohio, after serving as national FFA vice president in 1977-78. "As an FFA officer I had the chance to visit many classrooms and watch many good teachers in action. I saw there might be a place for me, since there is a place for the kind of person who enjoys explaining things to other people."

As with any career there are pros and cons. For Rob and many others, the advantage lies in watching students discover they can perform a skill. "There is no doubt you must have a genuine interest in young people and seeing them learn," he says, "or you will easily become frustrated when they do not learn as quickly as you would like." As a teacher, he says, "You must gain genuine pleasure in seeing someone else achieve."

Alan Campbell, a first-year teacher at Marlow, Oklahoma, agrees. "I have students who have never performed certain skills before. For them, trying that skill in the first place is very difficult. However, when I make them do it, no matter how well or poorly they did, they're proud because *they did it.*"

Another plus, says Alan, is watching students grow to appreciate SOE programs. "I think there's a pride that comes from a student who knows his or her ag teacher is watching...they put more work into it."

Along with satisfaction comes enjoyment from working with others in FFA and vo-ag who share the same interests and goals. Dale Butcher, National Vocational Agriculture Teachers' Association president, says working with students and teachers has been quite rewarding. "You meet some great people," he says. "To me, the most important thing is to do something in life I enjoy and I can make a living at. By teaching ag, I can do both."

One drawback, according to Rob Hovis, is student behavior. "I was so used to working with adults that it is tiring to watch students do things I consider immature. Only time takes care of that problem."

Then there is the sheer physical exhaustion from working long hours. "You can work yourself into real fatigue," Rob says. And the fatigue can take its toll in more ways than just physical. "Last night I started thinking about a meeting we were planning and I couldn't get to sleep for wondering, 'Do the officers know their parts? Did someone remember to reserve the cafeteria? Will everybody get there?'" Include papers and tests to grade, teams and individuals to train, lessons to prepare and often there is little time to relax.

An ag teacher's day is a full one. Alan, for example, gets to school between 7 and 7:30 a.m. to make sure he is ready to go with lesson plans and materials. He spends some time before his first class to talk with other teachers. "It's important to know what's going on at school," he says. "That way both they and I realize how many forces are really pulling on the students. I have to realize they have other things to do besides FFA."

After teaching four classes and taking twenty minutes for lunch, he starts planning for the next day. For a first-year teacher, planning out exactly what will happen in class takes a great deal of time.

"An ag teacher has to know about so many subjects in order to teach," says Rob, "that you can never learn too much and it is hard to be an expert in any one subject." Imagine trying to teach carpentry, welding, soil conservation, animal science, crop production, engine repair and public speaking and you'll understand why ag teachers have to spend time reading and getting "hands-on" experience.

A typical day's late afternoon might include home and farm visits to talk with students about SOE programs. And evenings are often taken up with

(Continued on Page 37)

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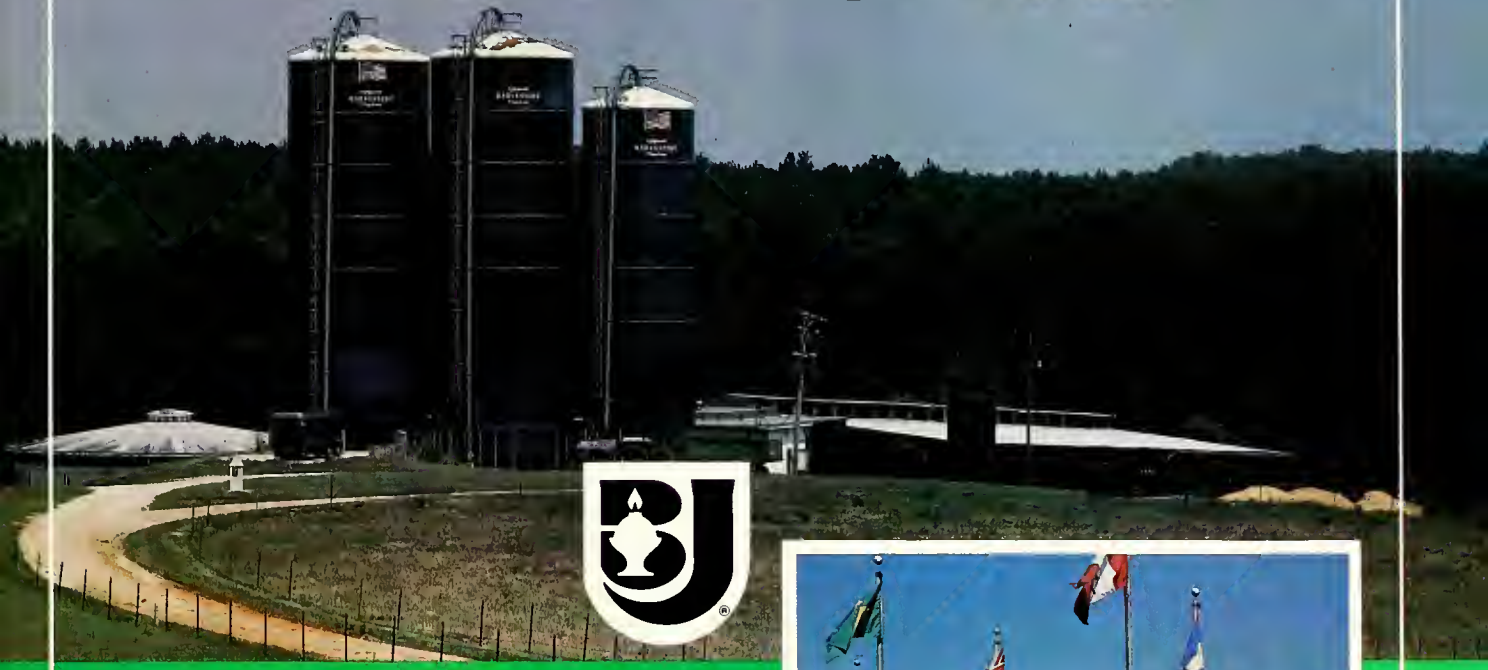

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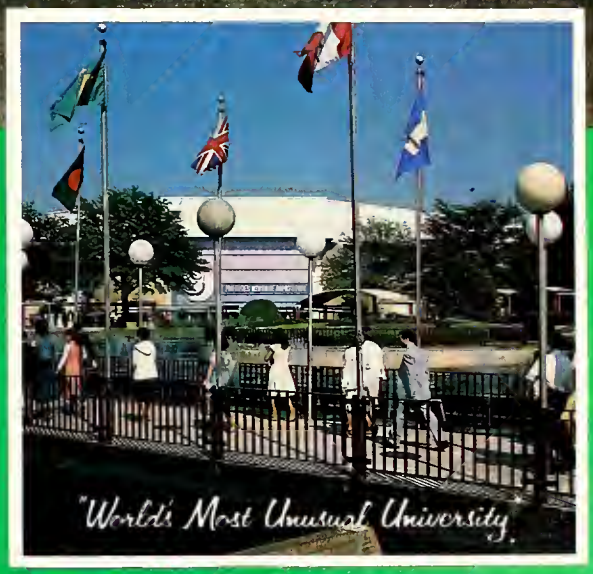

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News, Notes, and Nonsense from Everywhere

Chapter Scoop

by Jack Pitzer

According to **Allen Carter**, chapter reporter for *Bradley* FFA in Cleveland, TN, this makes the 27th year in a row that the chapter has had 100 percent membership.

N-N-N

They fed 500 people at the annual FFA-FHA beef barbeque in *Wirt County,* WV.

N-N-N

This year the *Le Sueur,* MN, Chapter received $2,000 from the United Way for their BOAC project and a $500 grant from the Rotary Club for BOAC. The chapter participated in test plot work for the rural community.

N-N-N

Bowdle, SD, FFA held another livestock and dairy judging school/contest sponsored by the Alumni for area chapters.

N-N-N

Atwater, CA, Chapter held a deep-pit barbeque on homecoming night for the high school's football teams to honor them for their great season.

N-N-N

Talawanda, OH, FFA traveled to another community to demonstrate parliamentary procedure for the FHA in that town.

N-N-N

A yearly activity of the *Pojoaque,* NM, Chapter is to enter the state fair booth competition. This year the chapter's theme was Stop Poaching.

N-N-N

Prague, OK, FFA is one of the coolest chapters in the nation thanks to the local firms who donated an ice-making machine to FFA for use in the chapter's concession stand.

N-N-N

Southampton, VA, members attended an ag college night organized for the chapters in their area.

N-N-N

One entry for the *Thomas,* OK, FFA in the state fair, in addition to bale movers, was native grass bundles.

N-N-N

Colfax, WA, FFA sold apples and is now into selling walnuts.

N-N-N

Over 1,000 people were on hand for the firemen's parade when the *Spruce Creek,* FL, FFA Alumni float took first.

It took extra innings for the *Heron Lake-Okabena,* MN, Chapter to take the district softball tournament title.

N-N-N

FFA at *Mississinawa Valley* High in Union City, OH, sponsored a leadership seminar for their school.

N-N-N

When a member of the *Green Bay Southwest,* WI, Chapter pays his or her dues, they get a portfolio with the chapter name on it and the logo Youth With a Purpose.

N-N-N

The chapter president and vice president of *Colman,* SD, **Dan Van Hecke** and **Karla Brendsel**, were crowned homecoming king and queen.

N-N-N

The greased pig catch at the *Meriden,* KS, fall festival was run by the FFA.

N-N-N

The FFA and FHA of *Phillipsburg,* KS, made enough money from their joint concession stand at volleyball games this year to pay for a big pizza party.

N-N-N

Freshmen members of the *Wallowa,* OR, Chapter got to attend the chapter's hayride free because they were the first to all get their dues paid.

N-N-N

Neil Badehop, reporter for *Wauseon,* OH, FFA described the color coding system used by the vo-ag classes in their school shop to remind users of various precautions needed in the shop.

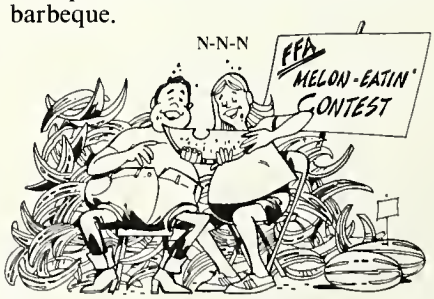
N-N-N

Yuma, AZ, Chapter joined local 4-H Clubs in a livestock selection clinic designed to help them choose better show animals.

N-N-N

Alicia Gonzalez, new reporter for *San Luis Obispo,* CA, Chapter sent an item about the $1,500 the chapter made on their pancake breakfast and shiskabob barbeque.

N-N-N



Nedra Scitern and **Craig Wooton** were named *Goddard,* NM, sweetheart and beau after winning the chapter watermelon eating contest.

N-N-N

FFA members in *Tuscola,* IL, helped plant the extension service corn plot in their community.

On chapter meeting days, the officers of *Round Valley,* AZ, FFA all have matching shirts to wear with their name and office.

N-N-N

Incoming freshmen for *DeWitt Central,* IA, Chapter were invited along with their parents to an orientation to let the freshmen know about conduct of meetings, leadership, earnings and savings, community service and SOEPs. State Vice President **Neal Soenksen** was guest speaker.

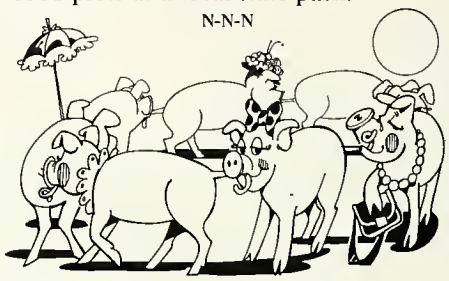
N-N-N

Members of *Churchill County,* NV, FFA learned plenty about safe operation of haying equipment during the summer. The chapter has a contract to swath, bale and stack hay for the university's Reno experimental farm.

N-N-N

During the summer the *Colchester,* IL, Chapter planted two acres of wildlife food plots at a local state park.

N-N-N



Western Brown, OH, FFA started a gilt chain and reporter **Jeff Gunter** got the first gilt.

N-N-N

Elida, OH, attracted over 2,000 students to a conservation field day and offered an old-fashioned applebutter boil and samples.

N-N-N

Fun and financial reward comes to the *Alexander* FFA in Albany, OH, from their homemade ice cream cranking and sales day on the Fourth of July.

N-N-N

The Farm Noon Show from an area radio station was broadcast live from the *Oshkosh West,* WI, Chapter grain show in the ag shop.

N-N-N

Titles for Mister and Miss Agriculture were awarded to students who participated in the ag olympics held by *Apollo* FFA in Owensboro, KY.

N-N-N

Folks around *Liberty,* IL, were all invited to a two-hour farm family safety seminar hosted by the FFA.

N-N-N

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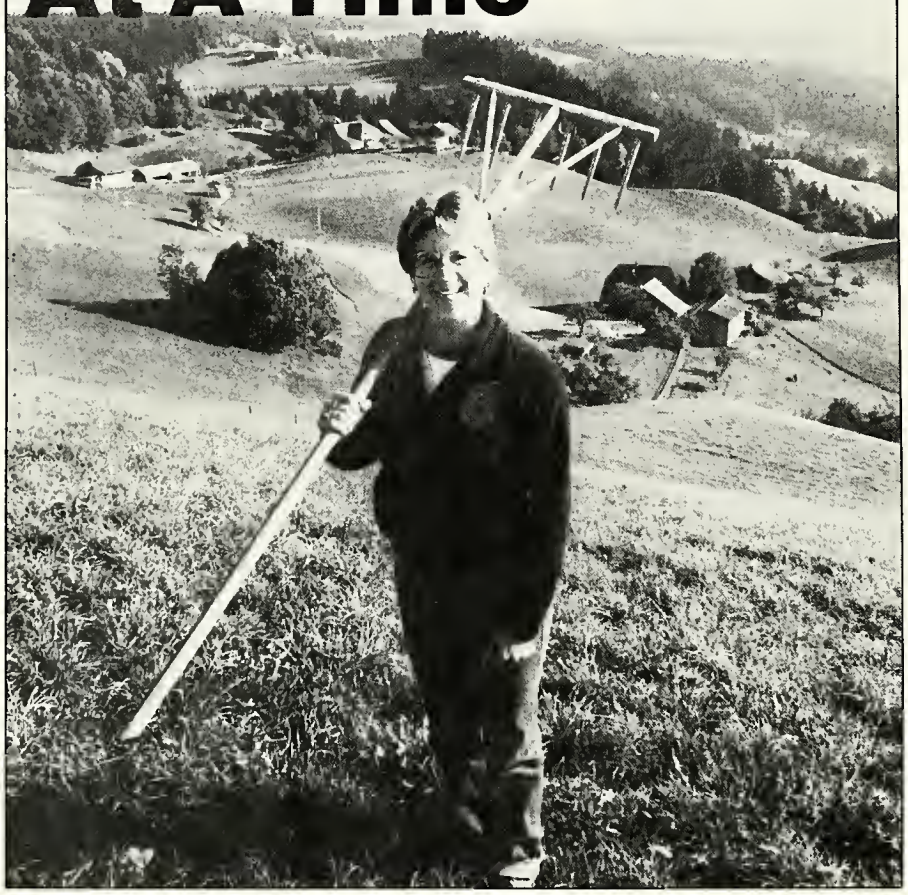

By Michael Wilson

THIS is a story of discovery and adventure; a story of young people unlocking the wonders and secrets of the world.

It is a story of a unique brand of FFA member: those not afraid to step into another culture, beyond the comfortable surroundings of their own backyards. They are in pursuit of something different, something unique, something that can only be found many miles from the back doors of their own farms and communities.

It is a story of *lives*—and how those lives are changed by an FFA program called Work Experience Abroad (WEA). FFA members travel to distant corners of the world to live and work with host families involved in production agriculture and agribusinesses. They stay in homes in Europe, South America, the South Pacific and Asia. As a result, they experience cultures, collect memories and build lifetime friendships.

What makes them go? What do they find when they arrive? Surely the answers are different for each individual. To explain every aspect of such a far-reaching effort is impossible. But the following profiles—snapshots, if you will—may give a clearer insight to the answers.

Snapshot: "The best thing about the program are the people you come in contact with," says 21-year-old Rod McSherry, of Deming, New Mexico. "I wanted to see how different people live. The monuments you've seen in history books, but not the people. You're going to find out how people live. You'll have to see it for yourself to appreciate it."

Top, Bottom Photos By Author

Rod is finding out about those people by staying on a family-operated crop and livestock farm 30 miles outside of Le Mans, France. Aside from the stone buildings, Rod's host farm looks much like an American farm. But it's a far cry from the 500-acre Hereford and corn, milo, cotton and barley farm he left behind in New Mexico. "There are no Herefords in France," Rod quips. Breaking into a smile he adds, "But I wouldn't have come here if things were the same as at home."

Rod works with Philippe Gagnot, one of three brothers who manage the operation. The farm has 500 acres of wheat, sugar beets, red beets and corn for silage, which is used to feed young bulls to fatten for slaughter—standard procedure in Europe.

"A lot of things have been westernized, says Rod. " They're very proud to be French. But I watch the news at night and at least half the news is American."

Philippe, 39, speaks the most fluent English of the three brothers. He visited the United States 18 years ago as an exchange student himself. "We like to have people like this because we learn about their country," he says, through a thick French accent. "And we hope they learn about ours too. We now have many friends in America."

Rod says, "One thing I've become aware of is that French farmers worry about the same things American farmers do," he says. "By being here I realized people are doing the same thing everywhere around the world—they're just trying to make a living, whether they're hauling tobacco around on donkeys, harvesting wheat with a combine or picking beets. It's just the way they do it that makes it different."

Snapshots from abroad: Above left, Pam Proffitt; below left, Omar Denmon; below, Rod McSherry; inset, feeding bulls; above right, Neal Anderson at Swiss dairy farm.

Snapshot: Pam Proffitt, a former state officer from West Plains, Missouri, had just returned from a mountain climbing adventure in the alps when I stopped to visit her at her host farm near Signau, Switzerland. Asked to give her impressions of Switzerland, she laughed and replied, "The chocolate is fantastic! I'd heard the mountains were beautiful—and they were; I'd heard the people were friendly—and they are."

Pam said she heard from past participants what an experience it was to live with a foreign farm family. "I wanted to learn about a different culture, especially one dealing with agriculture," says Pam. She got her wish—Pam's family lives on a picturesque mountainside dairy farm overlooking breathtaking valleys dotted with Brown Swiss milk cows. Quaint Swiss houses with wooden sides are outlined with flower boxes in their window sills. The area is noted as the birthplace of Simmental cattle.

"I knew it was going to be different, but I was looking forward to that difference," she says. "I still can't believe I'm here. It doesn't seem like I'm half a world away, especially when I look out and see those mountains."

The Biglers blend old-fashioned with modern household and farming methods. Take a step out the front door and you're in the milking parlor—the two buildings are connected, built that way years ago. Manure is handled efficiently through an underground lagoon system. Modern milking machines are used, but Pam pours the milk into containers which are delivered to a cheese station by a horse and cart.

Photos By Molly Mitchell

Besides farm duties, she also helps her host mother with housework. Women FFA members are expected to do both farm and house work—cheerfully. Keeping an open mind is helpful. "My host grandpa showed me how to do something and I didn't understand the purpose," says Pam. "I thought, 'We would never do that in America.' But I have to keep in mind *this isn't America.* It's not better, it's not worse, it's just different."

Rod adds: "You have to remember you're not here to change the world. If you come with this picture in your mind of what your family will be like and what your work will be like and you get here and it's not like that, you can get disillusioned. Some people could give up and pack their bags. You have to learn to be at home wherever you go."

Snapshot: "My parents have never been out of the United States," says 19-year-old Neal Anderson of Montevideo, Minnesota. "I wanted to find out about another country so I could bring information back to share with my family. I know they'll never have enough time to come over to Europe. So in a way, it's not just me here; it's my whole family that's living with me, here with my second family."

Above, Omar and host father Norbert Weber. "They take me on all the family activities," says Omar.

Neal lives on a small dairy farm in Wichtrach, Switzerland, and was impressed with WEA after his older brother Mike returned from Sweden a few years ago. His FFA chapter held a pork barbecue to help him raise the money needed to cover costs of his experience.

And costs for the program are not cheap: a six-month program averages to about $1700, not including a ticket to and from Washington, D.C. where FFA members go through orientation at the national FFA Center. But many FFA'ers find local sponsors, and scholarships are available through the National FFA Foundation and the National FFA Alumni Association. Once you are settled at your host family, you earn a "stipend" or wage over and above room and board. But, Neal cautions, it *is* work.

Some FFA members hope to learn their host country's language before the end of their program. Participants can attend a two-week German language course in Europe before meeting their host families. Neal attended. "I learned more from those two weeks than some kids did back in school in two years," he says, "because I knew I'd have to depend on it for survival." Pam says, "The language barrier is not a problem, it's a challenge. Everyday you try to pick up a new word, because there are so many things I want to tell them and it's frustrating at times because I don't know how.

Neal says his experience abroad has helped him find himself. "For me, this program has helped me mature. It builds self-confidence," he says. Another participant adds: "It's a good time to find out how far you can go on your own, what you're made of."

Snapshot: Work was at a fever pitch this October for Omar Denmon, who found himself working the grape harvest at a vineyard near Breisach, Germany. 21-year-old Omar, from Houston, Texas, confesses he knew nothing about grapes when he applied to go overseas. "One of my first jobs was to clean out all these barrels," he says gesturing to large, stainless steel containers of grapes. "I didn't know what they were for. I thought, we're probably washing clothes!"

Not exactly. As Omar soon found out, those barrels are used to transport some of the finest red and rose wine grapes in Germany. And previous experience in your agricultural interest is important. Even more important, though, is maturity. "I thought I'd like to come over when I was younger, but I figured I'd get more out of it later. I'm glad I waited now," says Omar.

Omar's host father, Norbert Weber, and his family are enthusiastic supporters of the exchange program. "They take me with on all the family activities," says Omar. "I'm not just learning the work. I'm meeting people from all over the world, and getting so many different points of view on life. So many things I took for granted in the states, I won't take for granted anymore."

Omar, like several WEA participants, made plans to obtain college credit for his experience at Prairie View College in Texas. Typically, a WEA participant can receive six hours or more of college credit.

What is not typical, though, are these FFA members themselves—they are extraordinary for the simple reason that they dared to be bold, to take a chance. Because they have chosen to, Rod, Pam, Neal, Omar and hundreds of other FFA members like them now reap the benefits of a unique experience—built one friendship at a time. •••

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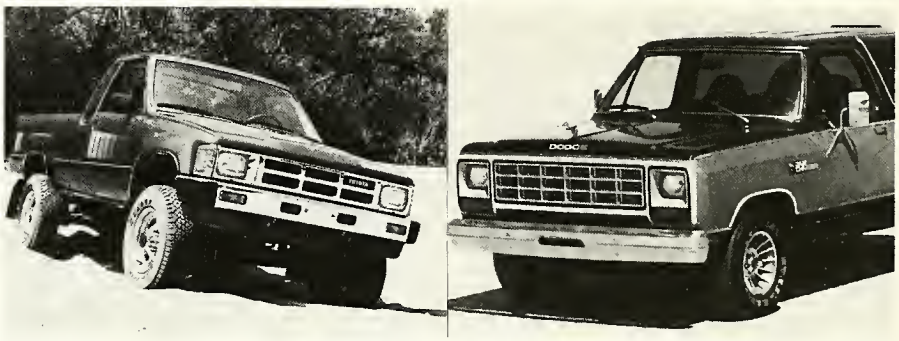
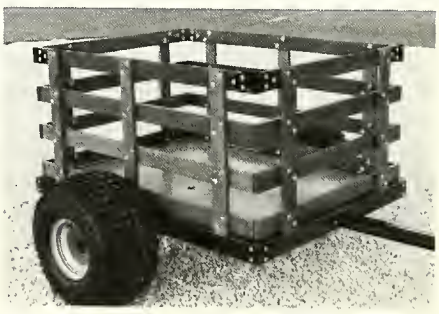
New in Agriculture

Right, J I Case unveils a new series of general purpose tractors in the under 90 horsepower range. The Case 94 Series two-wheel drive tractors are designed with new environmental cabs and low effort power steering.



Above, two new trucks for the 1984 farm season: left, the Toyota SR5 was the best selling 4x4 small truck in 1983 and this year is available for the first time with a diesel engine, optional 7-way adjustable cloth sports seat and 14 percent greater visibility in the "Xtracab" version which offers a 60 percent larger rear window. Right, Dodge introduces its new line of trucks this year with a five year, 100,000 mile outer panel rust protection warranty on conventional and sport utility Ramcharger models.



Above, the ORP-AL platform trailer from TUFF'n Lite tows easily behind your ATV, small tractor or riding lawnmower. Its high flotation tires are standard, and it features a 3' x 4' bed with redwood stake sides that are easily removed. Weighing only 160 pounds, the trailer can handle up to 640 pounds of payload. The trailer comes with a two year limited warranty. For more information write UNIQUE Functional Products, 135 Sunshine Lane, San Marcos, CA 92069.

Computerized farm record keeping, production tracking systems and computer-based educational programs, such as pictured below, are among the services offered by a computer-based ag service called ADVANTAGE, by Control Data Corporation. The service, recently offered only in Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Indiana and Wisconsin, now expands to other states as well. For more information write 8100 34th Avenue South, Box O, Minneapolis, MN 55440.

Marlin Model 15Y "little Buckaroo" is a new .22-caliber, single-shot bolt action rifle. A scaled down version of the popular model 15, the rifle is specially built for youngsters or beginners.

Teaching Ag

(Continued from Page 30)

FFA meetings, practice and judging activities.

Qualifications

Is there a demand for more ag teachers? As always, good people are needed to carry on for those who retire or make a career change. Dale Butcher says the shortage that existed a few years ago is no longer a problem. Mr. Butcher cites the closing of some departments as one reason the shortage no longer exists.

To become an ag teacher, a person must earn a Bachelor of Science degree from a teacher training institution, such as a state university. Mr. Butcher says a student might earn some class credits from a junior college first, but would then have to complete requirements for a degree from a university. After earning a degree a student can be "certified" to teach, which means *licensed to teach* in a state.

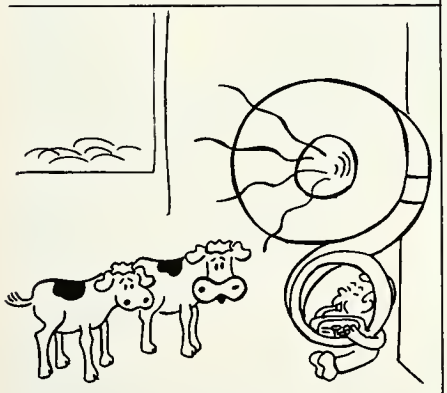
Mr. Butcher says requirements change periodically, and will probably change again based on the emphasis put on more "basic" education. "There is more emphasis on math and English," he says. "Students who want to be ag teachers should take as many courses in math, science and English as they can, along with vocational agriculture." For students who want to teach vocational agriculture but haven't been FFA members or taken high school vo-ag, learning everything one needs to know about FFA can make college studies and early years of teaching difficult. For those reasons, Mr. Butcher says, "Students who want to teach ag should make every effort to take as much vocational agriculture as they can."

Salaries for ag teachers vary, based on experience and the state or school district where the teacher works. Sam Stenzel, executive director of NVATA, says average pay ranges between $10,000 and $18,000 per year, sometimes more. A year may mean 9, 10, 11 or 12 months.

Other job options are open to persons with agricultural education degrees besides teaching. "Many people are drawn to being a county or youth agent and that is why they major in ag ed from the beginning," says Mr. Butcher. And sometimes ag teachers find agribusiness firms which find the teacher's knowledge of agriculture and people skills particularly well suited to their company's needs. "A broad knowledge of agriculture and how to work with people makes some former ag teachers naturals at being ag salespeople," he says.

If you would like to learn more about ag teaching, sit down with your own instructor and discuss this article. Take time to ask other ag teachers you see at FFA and vo-ag activities about ag teaching as a career. Your state university (ask your teacher or guidance counselor for the address) will probably have an agricultural education department that would be glad to supply you with information. Or write to the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers' Association, c/o Sam Stenzel, P.O. Box 15051, Alexandria, Virginia 22309. •••

Shirley Jones is a former FFA State Officer, WCP counselor and National FFA information intern. She currently works as Director of Communications for Agri Business Associates in Indianapolis, Indiana.



"If I sounded like that, they'd have a veterinarian over here."

NEW!
Fish Fillet Knives from Buck!
Buck's famous high-carbon steel... 'nuf said!
Unique handles, with cushioned non-slip grip for safety, comfort
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StreamMate, Model 125 4½" blade
Rich leather sheaths have special "no-cut" liner
LakeMate™ and StreamMate™
Buck's two new fish fillet knives...different in ways you'll appreciate. Pick one up, feel the difference in the handle, shaped to fit your hand. Made of textured Kraton* with a tacky feel, it won't slip. There's even a thong-hole. The slightly pliant, fully resilient handle washes clean with soap and water. The blades, of course, are made of Buck high-quality, rust-resistant steel that holds an edge! Rich brown leather sheath has a protective liner for long life. And these fine knives are backed by Buck's famous guarantee, at a price much lower than you'd expect.
*Kraton is a registered TM of Shell
BUCK KNIVES
Famous for holding an edge!
Coming soon: Buck's OceanMate™ with 9" blade
AMERICA'S FAVORITE KNIVES
Free! "Knife Know-How" Dept. NFF-1283, P.O. Box 1267, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Joke Page

Jill: *"When the farmer next door died, he left his spread to his three sons who changed the name of the cattle ranch to Focus."*

Will: *"Why did they change the name?"*

Jill: *"Because a focus is where the sun's rays meet. The ranch is where the sons raise meat."*

Brian Billeck
LaGrange, Texas

"My gosh! What kind of feed are you feeding your hogs?"

Politician: *"Well, dear, I've been re-elected!"*

Wife: *"Honestly?"*

Politician: *"I don't see any need to bring that up."*

Paul Doll
Kintyre, North Dakota

A doctor put an obese patient on a strict diet and told her to take plenty of exercise. On seeing her weeks later, he noticed she had lost many pounds. *"I'm glad you took my advice,"* he smiled. *"Did you find it tough avoiding cake, candy, ice cream and all the other goodies?"*

"Indeed, I did," she replied.

"And what sort of exercise did you do?" he asked.

"Climbed walls," she said.

Dominic Procopio
Weymouth, Massachusetts

Did you hear about the spinster who could not see too well? In order to hide her failing eyesight from her husband-to-be, she went and stuck a pin into a tree. The next day while walking with him, she pointed to the tree some 100 yards distant and said, *"Isn't that a pin sticking in that tree?"* And as she ran to retrieve it, she tripped over a cow.

James Senechal
Willow City, North Dakota

Three farmers were eating breakfast with their wives.

The first farmer said to his wife, *"Pass the honey, honey."*

The second farmer said to his wife, *"Pass the sugar, sugar."*

The third farmer, not wanting to be outdone by his contemporaries, turned to his wife and said, *"Pass the bacon, pig."*

Wanda Iverson
Whitefish, Montana

Returning to his stadium seat, popcorn in hand, a rather obese football fan leaned over and asked a woman seated on the aisle, *"Did I step on your feet when I went out?"*

"Well," said the woman with a smile ready to accept his apology, *"as a matter of fact, you did."*

"Good," said the portly one squeezing past, *"this is the right row then."*

Terry Mount
Portales, New Mexico

One dark night a gang of thieves set out to rob the safe of an underwear store. As soon as the gang had gotten inside the building, the leader called his thugs together and whispered, *"Listen, guys, no slips."*

Diana Willadsen
Van Buren, Arkansas

One day my dad was out plowing one of his fields. Suddenly it started to rain. It had been so long since he'd felt rain, that when the first drop hit him, it shocked him. When we found him we had to throw three buckets of dust in his face to revive him.

Laura Read
Richmond, Kansas

There was a sick man who went to the doctor who told him he had to have an operation. The man told his wife, but she didn't want him to have the operaton. The doctor asked her why? She said she didn't like anyone else to open her male.

Tina Barker
Owensboro, Kentucky

Voice on the phone: *"Boss, this is Joe. I won't be able to come to work today. My wife broke a leg.*

Boss: *"What's that got to do with you coming to work?"*

Joe: *"It was my leg she broke."*

Greg Roberson
Bee Branch, Arkansas

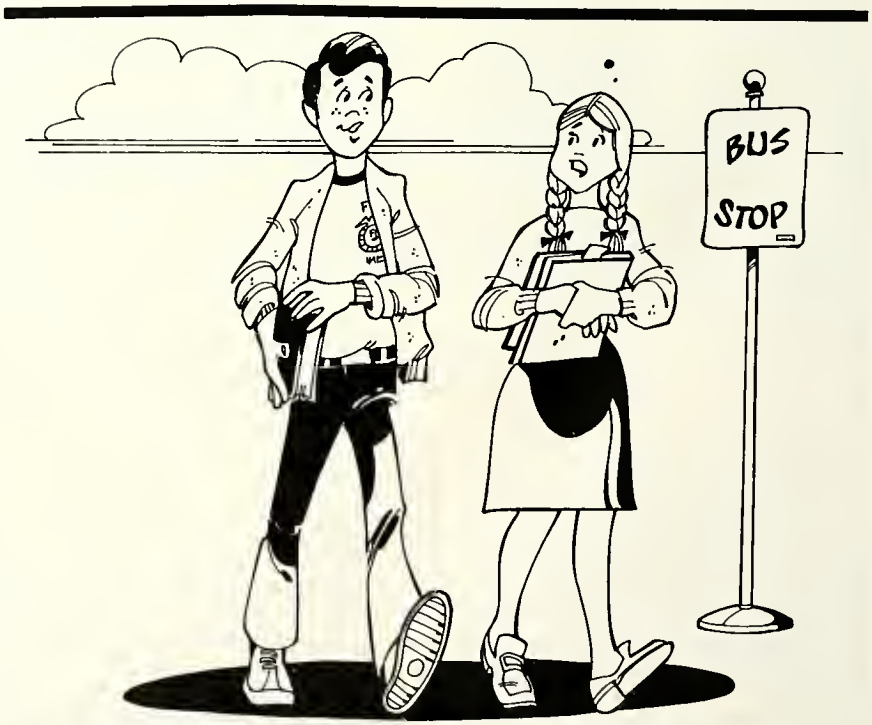
Joe: *"Why did the little boy put a belt on his report card?"*

Moe: *"I don't know, why?"*

Joe: *"To keep his grades up."*

Brian Miller
Burnet, Texas

Charlie, the Greenhand



"Our TV is in the shop, so can I come over to your house to do my homework?"

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Today the problems of farmers are different from the ones that faced your parents and grandparents. But one thing hasn't changed: It's still a family business, a way of life as much as it is a way of earning a living. And Double Circle Co-op's role, in maintaining that way of life, is more important than ever.

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As you begin to take over the reins, remember that no one, in this world, can go it alone. You'll need all the help you can get, and the best source of help is your Double Circle Co-op family.

COOP

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